



BE MORE CHILL

Music & Lyrics by Joe Iconis

Book by Joe Tracz

Based on the novel by Ned Vizzini

Performance Script: 6/5/15

Two River Theatre

BE MORE CHILL

Characters

JEREMY HEERE, awkward high school junior

CHRISTINE CANIGULA, high school theatre girl, sweetly dorky

MICHAEL MELL, Jeremy's music-obsessed best friend

JAKE DILLINGER, high school awesomeness personified

RICH, five feet five inches of teenage bully

CHLOE, the hottest girl in school, crass and confident

BRADY, the second hottest girl in school, insecure

ANNA ROLAN, that girl who knows everyone's business

JEREMY'S DAD, never wears pants. Also: MR. REYES, SCARY STOCKBOY

THE SQUIP, the supercomputer in Jeremy's head.

Time

Now

Place

Suburban New Jersey

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE

(We see JEREMY at home, before school. He's at his computer, furiously waiting for something to load. We get the impression it might be homework or something huge...)

“More Than Survive”

JEREMY

C-C-C-C'MON, C-C-C-C'MON, GO GO
C-C-C-C'MON, C-C-C-C'MON, GO GO

I'M WAITING FOR MY PORNO TO LOAD
MY BRAIN IS GONNA FRIKKIN EXPLODE
AND NOW OF COURSE IT'S TIME TO HIT THE ROAD
WHICH MEANS I'LL BE UNCOMFORTABLE ALL DAY

BUT THAT REALLY ISN'T SUCH A CHANGE
IF I'M NOT FEELING WEIRD OR SUPER STRANGE
MY LIFE WOULD BE IN UTTER DISARRAY
CUZ FREAKING OUT IS MY OK
GOOD MORNING, TIME TO START THE DAY

C-C-C-C'MON, C-C-C-C'MON, GO GO
C-C-C-C'MON, C-C-C-C'MON, GO GO

(JEREMY bolts from the room and enters the bathroom. He looks at himself in the mirror. Lifts up his shirt to check for muscles. His DAD enters.)

JEREMY

Dad! Haven't you heard of privacy?

JEREMY'S DAD

We're all men in this house. Pretend we're in the army.

JEREMY

Just... When I get home... Please have pants on. Okay?



JEREMY'S DAD

Ten-hut.

(JEREMY heads outside.)

JEREMY

NOW SHOULD I TAKE THE BUS OR WALK INSTEAD?
I FEEL MY STOMACH FILLING UP WITH DREAD

WHEN I GET NERVOUS MY WHOLE FACE GOES RED
DUDE, WEIGH THE OPTIONS CALMLY AND BE STILL

A JUNIOR ON THE BUS IS KILLER WEAK
BUT IF I WALK WHEN I ARRIVE I'M GONNA STRAIGHT-UP REEK
AND MY BOXERS WILL BE BUNCHY AND MY PITS WILL LEAK
OH, GAH, I WISH I HAD THE SKILL
TO JUST BE FINE AND COOL AND CHILL

(Perhaps we see JEREMY on the bus, heading to school.)

I DON'T WANT TO BE A HERO
JUST WANNA STAY IN THE LINE
I'LL NEVER BE A ROB DENIRO
FOR ME, JOE PESCI IS FINE
AND SO I FOLLOW MY OWN RULES
AND I USE THEM AS MY TOOLS
TO STAY ALIVE
I DON'T WANT TO BE SPECIAL, NO NO
I JUST WANNA SURVIVE

(JEREMY arrives at school. Students buzz around and sing along with him.)

JEREMY, STUDENTS

C-C-C-C'MON, C-C-C-C'MON, GO GO
C-C-C-C'MON, C-C-C-C'MON, GO GO

(JEREMY goes to his locker, where CHLOE and BROOKE gossip, JENNA ROLAN trying to wedge her way in.)

CHLOE

So Jenna Rolan said Madeline was all, "I'll only have sex with you if you beat me at pool." And then she lost at pool. Deliberately!

BROOKE

That is so awesome.

CHLOE

Brooke!

BROOKE

I mean slutty!

JENNA ROLAN

(to Brooke) And then Madeline was all—

CHLOE

I'm telling this story, Jenna!

(CHLOE sees JEREMY, and steers the girls away, whispering)

CHLOE

Oh my god, he was like, getting off on that...

(JEREMY runs into RICH.)

RICH

Yo, don't touch me, tall-ass!

JEREMY

Sorry, I was just... trying to get to my...

(RICH turns him against a locker and writes something on his backpack with a marker.)

RICH

You wash that off, you're dead.

(JAKE DILLINGER enters.)

Jakey D! What's the story with Madeline?

JAKE

I shouldn't say. (Beat.) But it's a good thing I rock at pool.

(The two go off together. JEREMY waits until they're gone before turning around.)

JEREMY

I NAVIGATE THE DANGEROUS HALL
FOCUS ON A POSTER THERE ON THE WALL
AVOIDING ANY EYE CONTACT AT ALL
AND TRYING HARD TO REMAIN UNSEEN

THE POSTER'S CLOSER NOW, AND WHAT DOES IT SAY?
IT'S A SIGN-UP FOR THE AFTER SCHOOL PLAY
IT'S A SIGN-UP SHEET FOR GETTING CALLED GAY
AND THAT'S NOT WHAT I NEED RIGHT NOW, AND SCENE
I HANG A LEFT AND THERE'S

(We see CHRISTINE for the first time. Perhaps she's drinking water from a fountain.
JEREMY is transfixed.)

CHRISTINE

CHRISTINE
CHRISTINE
CHRISTINE
CANIGULA

CHRISTINE—

CHRISTINE

Excuse me...

(JEREMY snaps out of his hypnotic moment.)

JEREMY

Yeah?

CHRISTINE

I think someone wrote “BOYF” on your backpack?

(JEREMY looks at his backpack. Indeed, we see Rich wrote the letters “B-O-Y-F”.)

JEREMY

I... Uh...

(JEREMY bolts.)

JEREMY

OH THAT WAS SMOOTH, YEAH THAT WAS SUPER PIMP
MY MACK DADDY GAME COULDN'T BE MORE LIMP
NO TIME TO WALLOW, NO, INSTEAD
JUST CLEAR YOUR BRAIN AND MOVE AHEAD
ACCEPT THAT YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE GUYS
WHO'LL BE A VIRGIN 'TILL HE DIES

I DON'T WANT TO BE A BALLER
JUST WANT SOME SKILLS TO COUNT ON
IF MY NUTS WERE ANY SMALLER
THEY WOULD BE TOTALLY GONE
IF I CONTINUE AT THIS RATE
THE ONLY THING I'LL EVER DATE
IS MY MACBOOKPRO HARD DRIVE
I DON'T WANNA TO BE CLOONEY, NO NO
I JUST WANNA SURVIVE

(JEREMY runs into MICHAEL at lunch.)

JEREMY

Michael!

MICHAEL

JEREMY, MY BUDDY, HOW'S IT HANGING? LUNCH IS BANGING
HAD MY SUSHI, GOT MY SLUSHY AND MORE
THE ROLL WAS NEGIMAKI AND I'M FEELING PRETTY COCKY
CUZ THE GIRL AT SEV ELEV GAVE ME A GENEROUS POUR

JEREMY

You're listening to Bob Marley again, aren't you?

MICHAEL

I'M LISTENING TO MARLEY, AND THE GROOVE IS HELLA GNARLY
AND WE'RE ALMOST AT THE END OF THE SONG
YEAH, THAT WAS THE END, NOW TELL ME FRIEND,
HOW WAS CLASS, YOU LOOK LIKE ASS, WHAT'S WRONG?

(JEREMY shows him his backpack.)

JEREMY

"BOYF", what does that even mean?

(Michael turns his own backpack around, to reveal someone has written: "RIENDS".
Together, the bags spell "BOYFRIENDS.")

I hate this school. I wrote Christine a letter telling her how I feel.

MICHAEL

That's progress!

JEREMY

I tore it up and flushed it. (off MICHAEL) That's still progress.

MICHAEL

It's all good. I saw, on Discovery, that humanity has stopped evolving.

JEREMY

That's good?

MICHAEL

Evolution's survival of the fittest, right? But now, because of technology...you
don't have to be strong to survive. Which means there's never been a better time
in history to be a loser! So own it! Why try to be cool when you can be—

(JEREMY sees CHRISTINE approach the sign-up sheet.)

JEREMY

CHRISTINE

MICHAEL

I was gonna say “getting stoned in my basement”, but—

(Now MICHAEL sees CHRISTINE.)

CHRISTINE

BOTH

CHRISTINE
CANIGULA

CHRISTINE
CHRISTINE
CHRISTINE

EVERYONE

CHRISTINE CANIGULA
CHRISTINE CANIGULA

(JEREMY slow motion walks to the sign-up sheet.)

JEREMY

I FEEL MY BODY GET UP FROM THE CHAIR
I SEE MY CONVERSE WALKING OVER THERE
I TAKE A SHAKY BREATH AND I PREPARE

WHO CARES IF PEOPLE THINK I’M LAME
CHRISTINE SIGNED, I’LL DO THE SAME
I GRAB THE PEN, I WRITE MY NAME

(As soon as he signs, RICH shouts out:)

RICH

Gay! Hahaha!

(People laugh and exit. CHLOE: “I like gay people.”)

JEREMY

I’M NEVER GONNA BE THE COOL GUY
I’M MORE THE ONE WHO’S LEFT OUT
OF ALL THE CHARACTERS AT SCHOOL
I AM NOT THE ONE WHO THE STORY’S ABOUT
WHY CAN’T SOMEONE JUST HELP ME OUT

AND TEACH ME HOW TO THRIVE
HELP ME TO MORE THAN SURVIVE
MORE THAN SURVIVE
MORE THAN SURVIVE

(EVERYONE joins in, as the general hustle of school commences and JEREMY moves through the rest of his day.)

IF THIS WAS AN APOCALYPSE
I WOULD NOT NEED ANY TIPS
IN HOW TO STAY ALIVE
BUT SINCE THE ZOMBIE ARMY'S YET TO DESCEND
AND THE PERIOD IS GOING TO END
I'M JUST TRYING MY BEST
TO PASS THE TEST
AND SURVIVE
SURVIVE

EVERYONE

C-C-C-C'MON, C-C-C-C'MON, GO GO
C-C-C-C'MON, C-C-C-C'MON, GO GO
C-C-C-C'MON, C-C-C-C'MON, GO GO

GO GO GO GO
GO GO GO GO
GO GO GO GO

SCENE TWO

(By the end of the song, JEREMY has landed outside play practice with MICHAEL. He hesitates, then decides not to go in.)

JEREMY

I guess evolution's not for everyone.

MICHAEL

You don't have to do this. Of course, I'll mock you forever if you don't.

(JEREMY pumps himself up.)

JEREMY

C-C-C-C'MON, C-C-C-C'MON, GO GO
C-C-C-C'MON, C-C-C-C'MON, GO—

(He enters... and finds CHRISTINE.)

Yo!

CHRISTINE

Yo.

JEREMY

Is this where you meet for the play?

CHRISTINE

Nope. This is where you meet for the swim team. (off Jeremy) I'm joking.

JEREMY

I'm Jeremy! I mean...

(He stands there awkwardly for a beat.)

CHRISTINE

Are you okay?

JEREMY

(barely verbal) Hnnh?

CHRISTINE

You seem nervous.

JEREMY

No, I always (realizes this is dumb but commits to saying it anyway) sweat this much.

CHRISTINE

I get it. You're a virgin. (off JEREMY) First play rehearsal!

JEREMY

(realizes) You think I'm nervous about play rehearsal!

CHRISTINE

Why else would you be shaking? A lot?

JEREMY

Ha ha ha ha ha— Yeah, totally freaked.

CHRISTINE

It's okay. I'm a little jealous actually. You never forget your first. Play rehearsal. Coming here is the highlight...

JEREMY

Of your day?

CHRISTINE

Yeah right. (beat, she smiles) Of my *life*!

“I Love Play Rehearsal”

I LOVE PLAY REHEARSAL
BECAUSE IT’S THE BEST
BECAUSE IT IS FUN

I LOVE PLAY REHEARSAL
AND I GET DEPRESSED
AS SOON AS IT’S DONE

BUT NOT DEPRESSED AS IN, LIKE, “KILL YOURSELF” DEPRESSED
NO, I’M NOT INTO SELF HARM
DUDE, I SWEAR, HERE, CHECK MY ARM

SEE, I JUST USED THE WORD TO EMPHASIZE A POINT
TO SHOW THE PASSION THAT I’VE GOT
I AM PASSIONATE A LOT

AND I HAVE MAD GIGANTIC FEELINGS
RAD AND FRANTIC FEELINGS
ABOUT MOST EVERYTHING
LIKE GUN CONTROL, LIKE SPRING
LIKE IF I’M LIVING UP TO ALL I’M MEANT TO BE
I ALSO HAVE A TOUCH OF ADD
WHERE WAS I?, OH, RIGHT

I LOVE PLAY REHEARSAL
CUZ YOU ARE EQUIPPED
WITH DIRECTIONS AND TEXT

LIFE IS EASY IN REHEARSAL
YOU FOLLOW A SCRIPT
SO YOU KNOW WHAT COMES NEXT

ANYHOO, THE POINT THAT I’M GETTING TO IS
SOMETIMES LIFE CAN’T WORK OUT IN THE WAY
IT WORKS OUT IN THE PLAY
LIKE THE ONLY TIME I GET TO BE THE CENTER OF ATTENTION
IS WHEN I’M JULIET OR BLANCHE DUBOIS AND CAN I MENTION

...that was really one of my best roles, did you see that? I was incredibly commanding, I think. It made me feel like there just aren't strong roles for women in theater these days, particularly high school theater, do you find that? Because I totally find that—

AND NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO NARROW DOWN THE MANY REASONS WHY

I LOVE PLAY REHEARSAL
I HAPPINESS CRY
WHENEVER IT STARTS

ITS JUST SO UNIVERSAL
GETTING TO TRY
PLAYING SO MANY PARTS

MOST HUMANS DO ONE THING FOR ALL OF THEIR LIVES
THE THOUGHT OF THAT GIVES ME HIVES
I'VE GOT SO MANY INTERESTS I WANT TO PURSUE
AND WHY MY TELLING THIS TO YOU?

GUESS THERE'S A PART OF ME THAT WANTS TO

JEREMY

Really?

CHRISTINE

There's also a part of me that wants to do this. (CHRISTINE makes a crazy, goblin freak-out noise!) So I did it!

JEREMY

Uh.

CHRISTINE

BACK TO PLAY REHEARSAL
MY BRAIN IS LIKE BZZZZ
MY HEART IS LIKE WOW
BECAUSE WE'RE HERE AT PLAY REHEARSAL
AND IT'S STARTING
WE'RE STARTING
IT'S STARTING
SOON
OOO

JEREMY

So where's everyone else?

CHRISTINE

We've been slipping in membership lately. I guess it's just the two of us—

(JAKE, RICH, BROOKE, JENNA, and CHLOE enter in a flurry of noise: "Woo-hoo!" "Let's start this party!" "Has this theater always been here?")

JEREMY

Aw, gah!

(MR. REYES enters.)

MR. REYES

Oh thank god, the popular students have arrived. Hellooooo, everyone! My name is Mr. Reyes. You may recognize me from Drama Class, or my full-time job, at the Hobby Lobby. (off their reaction, genuinely moved) Thank you. I've been dreaming of the day I get to stage William Shakespeare's classic "A Midsummer Night's Dream"—

CHRISTINE

YES!

MR. REYES

And today, that dream dies.

CHRISTINE

What?

MR. REYES

And is reborn! Just... slightly mutated. The school has informed me that, unless I increase our popularity, our funds will be diverted. To the Frisbee Golf Team. Which is why *our* production will be set, not in a pastoral forest, but a post-apocalyptic future. Instead of frolicking with fairies, there will be fleeing. From zombies.

CHRISTINE

Don't you care about Shakespeare?

MR. REYES

The man is dead. Let it go. We will now take a five-minute break so I can eat a Hot Pocket.

(The POPULAR KIDS follow him out, in a flurry of noise similar to their entrance: JAKE: "Woo hoo!" RICH: "Theatre is easy, yo!" MR. REYES, to BROOKE: "So what's the story with Jake and Madeline?" JAKE shrugs him off and hangs back.)

JAKE

Hey. You were in that play last year.

CHRISTINE

You mean Romeo & Juliet?

JAKE

Yeah, you were that girl who died!

CHRISTINE

You mean Juliet?

JAKE

Yeah! That was depressing.

CHRISTINE

Thanks...

JAKE

But...you were good. I'm Jake.

CHRISTINE

I...know.

JAKE

Cool... Can I say something stupid? When I saw you die in the play last year... That was like the saddest I'd felt in a long time. It was like everything in my life, all the pressure I feel to be the best, at everything, all the time... Suddenly felt so small. And then, when you got up at the end for your victory dance...

CHRISTINE

Bow, it's called a bow.

JAKE

Right! I remember thinking, "I'm glad that girl's not dead...before I ever got the chance to know her." Stupid, right?

(CHRISTINE stares at him.)

CHRISTINE

That's... not stupid at all.

JAKE

Cool. Hey, a bunch of us are going out after practice today. You should join. "Parting is such sweet"...

CHRISTINE

Sorrow?

JAKE

Whatever. (he spots JEREMY) Hey, dude. Someone wrote BOYF on your backpack.

(JAKE exits. JEREMY tries to resume his game.)

JEREMY

So, I heard this thing about how humans aren't evolving anymore?

CHRISTINE

I'm sorry, Jeremy. Did you say something?

(Across the room, JAKE smiles at CHRISTINE. JEREMY notices.)

JEREMY

Forget it.

ONCE AGAIN THERE'S BEEN A TAKE DOWN
BUT I GUESS IT COULD HAVE GONE WORSE
AT LEAST I DIDN'T HAVE A BREAKDOWN
THEN HAVE TO GO TO THE NURSE
I DON'T WANNA BE SPECIAL
DON'T EVEN NEED TO SURVIVE
I JUST WANT TO KNOW THAT CHRISTINE
IS AWARE I'M ALIVE

SCENE THREE

(The boy's bathroom, after rehearsal. JEREMY is trying to wash the letters off his backpack when RICH walks in.)

RICH

I told you not to wash that off.

(JEREMY busies himself with his backpack.)

JEREMY

Where's my homework?

RICH

I'm talking to you, tall-ass!

JEREMY

Why do you keep calling me that? I'm not even that tall!

(RICH heads to a urinal.)

RICH

You could be, if you weren't hunched over all scared all the time. The only thing more pathetic is the way you're sneaking off to a stall to get away from me.

(JEREMY was trying to do just that. He stops, busted.)

Stall's for girls. You a girl, Jeremy?

JEREMY

How can you talk to people while you're... Y'know.

RICH

Confidence.

JEREMY

You might wanna...watch the floor...

(Because suddenly, Rich is twitching. As if he's receiving a message from beyond. He begins muttering to himself under his breath. It's creepy.)

JEREMY

Uh... I just remembered I don't have to pee after all—

RICH

Don't move.

(JEREMY freezes. Slowly, RICH zips up. Then turns to face JEREMY. Menacing.)

You don't remember me freshman year, do you?

JEREMY

You didn't go here freshman year—

(RICH pounds the wall. Scary.)

RICH

I DID! You just didn't notice. Nobody did!

“The Squip Song”

RICH

FRESHMAN YEAR
DIDN'T HAVE A GIRLFRIEND OR A CLUE
GOOD TIMES WOULD ONLY
SOAR BY

I WAS GROSS
AS EVERY FEMALE WOULD ATTEST
MY SEXTING WAS A FUTILE QUEST
MY LITTLE PENIS WAS DEPRESSED
IT WAS SO LONELY
POOR GUY

I WAS HOPELESS, HOPELESS
I WAS HELPLESS, HELPLESS
EVERY TIME I'D WALK THE HALLWAY I WOULD TRIP
I WAS STAGNANT AND IDLE
I WAS SO SUICIDAL AND THEN, THEN, THEN
THEN, THEN, THEN, THEN, THEN
THEN, THEN, THEN, THEN
THEN I GOT A SQUIP.

JEREMY

You got quick?

RICH

Not quick. Squip.

JEREMY

I've just never heard of it before.

RICH

That's the point. This is some top-secret-can't-even-look-it-up-on-the-internet
shit.

IT'S FROM JAPAN
IT'S A GREY OBLONG PILL
QUANTUM NANOTECHNOLOGY CPU
THE QUANTUM COMPUTER IN THE PILL
WILL TRAVEL THROUGH YOUR BLOOD UNTIL
IT IMPLANTS IN YOUR BRAIN AND IT TELLS YOU WHAT TO DO

JEREMY

What? That's not even possible.

(RICH shoves JEREMY against a wall—)

RICH

Shut up, tall-ass!

(Beat, he realizes what he's doing and lets him go.)

Sorry, old habits. Look, I apologize for treating you like human garbage all the time. I only did it 'cause my squip said I had to. But now it's saying you're not a bad guy. That you might want a squip of your own. 'Course, if you're not interested...

JEREMY

So it's like... (whispers) Drugs?

RICH

It's better than drugs, Jeremy.

IT'S FROM JAPAN
IT'S A GREY OBLONG PILL
QUANTUM NANOTECHNOLOGY CPU
THE QUANTUM COMPUTER IN THE PILL
WILL TRAVEL THROUGH YOUR BLOOD UNTIL
IT IMPLANTS IN YOUR BRAIN AND IT TELLS YOU WHAT TO DO

IT'S PRE-PROGRAMMED
IT'S AMAZING
SPEAKS TO YOU DIRECTLY

YOU BEHAVE AS
IT'S APPRAISING
HELPS YOU ACT CORRECTLY

HELPS YOU TO BE COOL
HELPS YOU RULE

PICTURE THIS
NOBODY CARES IF YOU ARE LATE
CUZ EVEN TEACHERS THINK YOU'RE GREAT
YOUR WEEKEND'S JUST A FULL-ON SLATE
OF BLOWOUT BENDERS
OF TEENAGE ROCKSTAR SPLENDORS

RIGHT NOW YOU'RE HELPLESS, HELPLESS
YOU ARE ALMOST HOPELESS
ON THE SCHOOL SOCIAL MAP YOU'RE JUST A BLIP

BUT IF YOU TAKE MY ADVICE AND IF YOU
PAY THE LISTED PRICE, WELL THEN YOU
GO FROM SAD TO INTERESTING TO HIP
YEAH, YOUR WHOLE LIFE WILL FLIP
YEAH, WHEN YOU BUY A SQUIP

RICH

I got a hook-up, this guy works at Payless Shoes at the Menlo Park Mall. It's six hundred.

JEREMY

Dollars?

RICH

It's worth it. Bring the money on Monday. You'll see.

(RICH starts to exit.)

JEREMY

Aren't you gonna wash your hands?

RICH

Aw, man, Jeremy. You know what you need?

A SQUIP
A SQUIP
A SQUIP
NO LONGER A DRIP
WHEN YOU GOT IN YOUR GRIP
A SQUIP

(RICH exits. We follow JEREMY from the bathroom to his bedroom, later that night.)

JEREMY

IT'S FROM JAPAN
IT'S A GREY OBLONG PILL
QUANTUM NANOTECHNOLOGY CPU
THE QUANTUM COMPUTER IN THE PILL
WILL TRAVEL THROUGH MY BLOOD UNTIL
IT IMPLANTS IN MY BRAIN AND IT TELLS ME WHAT TO DO

IT HELPS ME TO BE COOL
IT HELPS ME RULE

SCENE FOUR

(That night. JEREMY and MICHAEL hang out in Jeremy's room, playing video games.)

“Two Player Game”

BOTH

FIND THE BAD GUY, PUSH HIM ASIDE, THEN MOVE ON FORWARD WITH YA
FRIEND AT YOUR SIDE
IT'S A TWO PLAYER GAME, SO WHEN THEY MAKE AN ATTACK
YOU KNOW YA GOTTA BROTHER GONNA HAVE YA BACK
THEN YA STAY ON TRACK, AND- AH!- REMAIN ON COURSE
IF THEY GIVE YA SMACK YA- GAH!- USE YOUR FORCE
IF YOU LEAVE YOUR BROTHER BEHIND ITS LAME
CUZ IT'S AN EFFED UP WORLD BUT IT'S A TWO-PLAYER GAME, HEY!

JEREMY

So? What do you think?

MICHAEL

He's scamming you. He's scamming you super weirdly.

JEREMY

What if he's not? This could be huge! All I need to do is give the guy who
torments me six...hundred...he's totally scamming me. . I'm doomed to be a
loser 'til the end of the world. No, probably then too.

MICHAEL

No way.

DUDE, YOU ARE COOLER THAN A VINTAGE CASSETTE
IT'S JUST THAT NO ONE ELSE BUT ME THINKS THAT YET
YOU'RE JUST A NOTHING IN THE HIGH SCHOOL SCHEME
BUT IT'S NO BIG, CUZ YOU AND I ARE A TEAM

WE LIKE
OUT OF PRINT GAMES
RETRO SKATES
I GOT A PAC MAN TATOO
NOBODY HERE APPRECIATES
BUT SOON WE'LL BE TOGETHER WHERE THEY DO

CUZ GUYS LIKE US ARE COOL IN COLLEGE
COOL IN COLLEGE, THIS I KNOW
GUYS LIKE US ARE COOL IN COLLEGE
WE RULE IN COLLEGE
LISTEN, BRO

HIGH SCHOOL IS HELL
BUT WE NAVIGATE IT WELL
CUZ WHAT WE DO
IS WE MAKE IT A TWO-PLAYER GAME

ZOMBIE!
WATCH OUT!
AAH!
WAH!

JEREMY
AS LOSERS WE HAVE FOUGHT TOGETHER FOR YEARS
BOTH NINTENDO ZOMBIES AND OUR POPULAR PEERS
NOW WE'RE STUCK ON A LEVEL AND I WANT TO MOVE ON

MICHAEL
JUST WAIT TWO YEARS WHEREUPON
YOU'LL REALIZE GUYS LIKE US ARE

BOTH
COOL IN COLLEGE
COOL IN COLLEGE
WON'T BE LAME

JEREMY
DUDE, I KNOW, I GET IT

BOTH
GUYS LIKE US ARE COOL IN COLLEGE

JEREMY
BUT WE'RE NOT IN COLLEGE

MICHAEL
ALL THE SAME
HIGH SCHOOL WHACK
BUT WE HAVE EACH OTHER'S BACK
IT'S ME AND YOU

BOTH
WE'VE MADE IT A TWO-PLAYER GAME

AGH!
OH!
ZOMBIE!

JEREMY'S DAD

(Knocks) Hello?

JEREMY AND MICHAEL

BLOOD!

JEREMY'S DAD

Son?

JEREMY AND MICHAEL

CLAWS!

JEREMY'S DAD

Jeremy?

JEREMY AND MICHAEL

PAUSE

(JEREMY'S DAD appears in the door.)

JEREMY

AAH! Dad! Pants!

JEREMY'S DAD

Is that a girl? Are you in here with a girl? Oh. Hi Michael.

MICHAEL

Hey, Mr. Heere.

JEREMY'S DAD

I was going to order pizza. If there's something you boys want—

JEREMY

Did you get dressed today? Like at all?

JEREMY'S DAD

Oh... They didn't need me at the office. So I worked from home.

JEREMY

Most people wear pants at home.

JEREMY'S DAD

That's why most people...aren't your father. (beat) Good talk.

(He exits. Michael recognizes the awkwardness of the moment.)

MICHAEL

How is he doing?

JEREMY

How does it look?

MICHAEL

You heard from her?

JEREMY

No. And who cares? It's like, Mom moved on, why can't he?

MICHAEL

Hey—

JEREMY

I don't want that to be my future! Rich said his hook-up's at the Payless, what if we go there ourselves? Just to see if his story checks out?

MICHAEL

And if it does? Will you be too cool for... video games?

JEREMY

No way.

YOU KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY FAVORITE PERSON
THAT DOESN'T MEAN I CAN'T STILL DREAM

MICHAEL

(Making fun of him)

IS IT REALLY TRUE? I'M YOUR FAVORITE PERSON?!

JEREMY

WE'RE NEVER NOT GONNA BE A TEAM

HIGH SCHOOL IS SHIT
AND YOU GOTTA HELP ME CONQUER IT

IT'S JUST WHAT WE DO

BOTH

WE MAKE IT A TWO PLAYER GAME

FIND THE BAD GUY, PUSH HIM ASIDE

THEN MOVE ON FORWARD WITH YA FRIEND AT YOUR SIDE

IT'S A TWO PLAYER GAME, SO WHEN THEY MAKE AN ATTACK

YOU KNOW YA GOTTA BROTHER GONNA HAVE YA BACK
THEN YA STAY ON TRACK, AND- AH!- REMAIN ON COURSE
IF THEY GIVE YA SMACK YA- GAH!- USE YOUR FORCE
IF YOU LEAVE YOUR BROTHER BEHIND ITS LAME
CUZ IT'S AN EFFED UP WORLD BUT IT'S A TWO-PLAYER GAME, HEY!
TWO PLAYER GAME
TWO PLAYER GAME
HEY

(By the end of the song, they have landed at...)

SCENE FIVE

(Payless Shoes. JEREMY and MICHAEL in front of a SCARY STOCKBOY, who's ignoring them. MICHAEL pushes JEREMY forward.)

JEREMY

I like your sideburns. Wolverine, right?

SCARY STOCKBOY

Let's see the money.

JEREMY

What?

SCARY STOCKBOY

IT'S FROM JAPAN
IT'S A GREY OBLONG PILL
QUANTUM NANOTECHNOLOGY CPU
THE QUANTUM COMPUTER IN THE PILL
WILL TRAVEL THROUGH YOUR BLOOD UNTIL
IT IMPLANTS IN YOUR BRAIN AND IT TELLS YOU WHAT TO DO

JEREMY

...How did you know why I'm here?

SCARY STOCKBOY

Just look at you, kid. (JEREMY pulls out the money.) That's four hundred?

JEREMY

Four?

SCARY STOCKBOY

Is that a problem?

JEREMY

No! Actually, there's a guy at my school charging... (off MICHAEL) Uh. Four hundred? Wow. Well, if you insist.

(JEREMY hands over the money. The STOCKBOY presents him with a shoebox.)

JEREMY

Ladies' running shoes?

(The STOCKBOY opens the box...and pulls out a small gray pill.)

SCARY STOCKBOY

Just so we're clear: this is untested technology. And it's not exactly legal. Which is why you're paying for it with cash in the back of a shoe store. I take no responsibility for what you might do with it. Or what it might do with you.

JEREMY

What might it—

SCARY STOCKBOY

To activate, take it with Mountain Dew. Don't know why. Just something about Mountain Dew. And, this is important—

(JENNA ROLAN enters the store, and the STOCKBOY barks at her.)

I'm sold out!

JENNA ROLAN

Of...shoes?

SCARY STOCKBOY

Oh, you're here for shoes. My bad. (to JEREMY) Scram, kid.

JEREMY

Wait, you were saying something important...

SCARY STOCKBOY

Oh yeah. All sales final. (ad-lib to JENNA as he leads her off) We just got in a killer pair of pumps...

SCENE SIX

(JEREMY and MICHAEL in the mall food court. Examining the pill.)

JEREMY

I hope you're worth four hundred dollars.

MICHAEL

Four hundred and one. Don't forget the Mountain Dew.

JEREMY

If this is real...my whole life could change. (Beat.) We should split it. You helped me get it. We should both benefit, right?

MICHAEL

I don't think it works that way. Besides, I like knowing that when you're cool, you'll owe me.

JEREMY

All right. Here goes...everything.

(He puts the pill on his tongue, swallows it with the Mountain Dew.)

MICHAEL

How does it taste?

JEREMY

Minty.

MICHAEL

How do you feel?

JEREMY

Like... (Long pause.) A chump.

MICHAEL

Nothing? At all? Try to say something cool.

JEREMY

I think I just blew my bar mitzvah money on a Wintergreen Tic-tac.

MICHAEL

Yeahh... Not cool.

JEREMY

Please leave me alone to mourn in my chili fries, forever.

(Beat.)

MICHAEL

Five minutes.

JEREMY

Where are you going?

MICHAEL

Check it out. Guy in Spencer's Gifts is hooking me up with a case of Crystal Pepsi. It's like regular Pepsi. Only clear.

JEREMY

Wasn't that discontinued in the 90's?

MICHAEL

That's what makes it so awesome.

(MICHAEL exits. JEREMY looks up to see CHRISTINE enter with JAKE.)

CHRISTINE

Shouldn't we wait for the rest of the cast?

JAKE

Yeahh... We're not meeting the rest of the cast. I figured we could get to know each other. Alone. That's why I'm taking you to one of my favorite spots in the universe. Sbarro—

JEREMY

Christine!

CHRISTINE

Jeremy! I didn't see you there.

JAKE

Yeah, you're kinda hard to notice. (to CHRISTINE) The best part, they let you pick whatever you want—

JEREMY

Wait! ...There's something I need to tell you.

JAKE

Now?

JEREMY

I... I...

(Suddenly, JEREMY seizes up, his head wracked with pain.)

OWWW!

VOICE

Target female: inaccessible.

CHRISTINE

Jeremy?

JEREMY

OW! What the HELL?!

VOICE

Calibration in process. Please excuse some mild discomfort.

JEREMY

MILD?!?

CHRISTINE

Jeremy, what's wrong?

JAKE

Dude, the freak's freaking out.

VOICE

Calibration complete. Access procedure initiated.

JEREMY

No, wait, I'm fine, I just—

VOICE

Discomfort level may increase.

JEREMY

AAHHHHH!

(JEREMY bolts, holding his head, as his body involuntarily spasms in pain.)

VOICE

Accessing: neural memory. Accessing: muscle memory. Access procedure: complete. Jeremy Heere...

(A young man appears. Twenty-something, attractive, and oozing cool. THE SQUIP.)

THE SQUIP

Welcome to your Super Quantum Unit Intel Processor.... Your SQUIP.

(A shocked beat.)

JEREMY

You look like Keanu Reeves.

THE SQUIP

My default mode. You can also set me for:

Sean Connery.

Jack Nicholson.

Sexy Anime Female.

JEREMY

Keanu's fine. Can everyone see you?

THE SQUIP

I exist only in your mind. All they see is you, having an animated conversation, with yourself. So don't do that. Just think at me. Like you're telepathic.

JEREMY

Like in X-men?

THE SQUIP

I can see this is going to be difficult. You want to be more chill.

JEREMY

You mean cool.

THE SQUIP

I do not. You see, human social activity is governed by rules and I have the processing capacity to understand those rules. And pass them on to you.

“Be More Chill”

THE SQUIP

TAKE YOUR HANDS OUT OF YOUR POCKETS
ARCH YOUR BACK, PUFF OUT YOUR CHEST
ADD SOME SWAGGER TO YOUR GATE OR
YOU'LL LOOK LIKE A MASTURBATOR
FIX YOUR POSTURE, THEN THE REST

JEREMY

But I *am* a masturbator—

THE SQUIP

We'll fix that.

ALL YOUR NERDINESS IS UGLY

JEREMY

I thought I was more of a geek—

THE SQUIP

ALL YOUR STAMMERING'S A CHORE

JEREMY

Wh-wh-what?

THE SQUIP

YOUR TICS AND FIDGETS ARE PERSISTENT
AND YOUR CHARM IS NON-EXISTENT
FIX YOUR VIBE, THEN FIX SOME MORE

(He catches JEREMY trying to stick his hands in his pockets.)

BUH

JEREMY

WHA?

THE SQUIP

BUH

JEREMY

WHA?

THE SQUIP

NO

JEREMY

AAH!

THE SQUIP

STOP

JEREMY

UHH

THE SQUIP

OH, EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU IS SO TERRIBLE
WHOA, EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU MAKES ME WANNA DIE

Jesus Christ!

JEREMY

THE SQUIP

SO DON'T FREAK OUT
AND DON'T RESIST
AND HAVE NO DOUBT
IF I ASSIST
YOU WILL
BE MORE CHILL

(JEREMY starts to slouch – and feels an electric shock.)

Ow! Did you just...shock me?

JEREMY

THE SQUIP

Spinal stimulation. You were slouching.

FIRST THINGS FIRST, GO BUY A NEW SHIRT

JEREMY

What's wrong with my—

THE SQUIP

ITS BETTER IF YOU JUST COMPLY
MY JOB'S TO COLOR YOUR AESTHETIC
AND MAKE YOU SEEM MUCH LESS PATHETIC
JUST STEP AND FETCH, DON'T ASK ME WHY

(JEREMY enters a store and begins looking at shirts.)

THE SQUIP

Pick that one.

JEREMY

It has a picture of Eminem.

THE SQUIP

If you're so astute, what do you need me for?

JEREMY

Do people still listen to Eminem?

THE SQUIP

Irrelevant. My quantum structure enables me to envision possible futures. I envision a future in which you wear an Eminem shirt and things turn out well.

JEREMY

What if someone quizzes me about his music?

THE SQUIP

My database is infinite and instantaneous.

JEREMY

How are you with math homework?

THE SQUIP

I'm a super-computer, Jeremy. I'm made of math.

(The SQUIP activates a chorus of SHOPPERS.)

OH, EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU IS SO TERRIBLE

PEOPLE IN THE MALL

EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU SUCKS!

EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU SUCKS!

THE SQUIP

WHOA, EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU MAKES ME WANNA DIE

PEOPLE IN THE MALL

EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU SUCKS!

EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU SUCKS!

ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE MALL THINK YOU'RE SUCH A SLOB

PEOPLE IN THE MALL

YOU'RE A SLOB!

TERRIBLE!

SUCH A SLOB!

THE SQUIP

AND BOY, CAN I SEE WHY!

THE SQUIP

Now you try picking a shirt. (JEREMY picks one.) That's a girl's shirt.

(JEREMY goes to put it back...and bumps into CHLOE, shopping with BROOKE.)

JEREMY

Sorry... (a jolt) OW!

THE SQUIP

Posture.

CHLOE

...Jerry?

JEREMY

Jeremy.

CHLOE

You shop here?

JEREMY

Oh yeah, all the / time—

THE SQUIP

Never.

JEREMY

Never. Is what I meant to...

THE SQUIP

Greet the beta.

JEREMY

The...? Oh. Hey Brooke.

THE SQUIP

“You look sexy.”

JEREMY

I can’t say that to a hot girl! OW!

THE SQUIP

Don’t smile. Stare intensely. Speak like you don’t care about your own death.

JEREMY

(taking the instruction) Lookin’ pretty sexy, Brooke.

BROOKE

(smiles, flattered) Thanks.

CHLOE

Is that a girl’s shirt?

No.

JEREMY

“Yes.”

THE SQUIP

Yes.

JEREMY

Repeat after me—

THE SQUIP

I SAW IT IN THE WINDOW AND I COULDN’T DISMISS

JEREMY

I SAW IT IN THE WINDOW AND I COULDN’T DISMISS

THE SQUIP

I WAS DATING A GIRL AND SHE HAD A SHIRT JUST LIKE THIS

JEREMY

I WAS DATING A GIRL AND SHE HAD A SHIRT JUST LIKE THIS

THE SQUIP

IT’S STILL PAINFUL

JEREMY

IT’S STILL PAINFUL

CHLOE

So who was this mystery girl?

JEREMY

Uh, you’ve probably never heard / of her—

THE SQUIP

MADELINE

JEREMY

MADELINE

CHLOE

What?

SHE'S FRENCH

JEREMY

CHLOE

Ugh! She is NOT French! She just pretends to be, for attention.

BROOKE

Madeline broke up with you?

JEREMY

Yeah...

THE SQUIP

No.

JEREMY

I mean—

THE SQUIP

I BROKE UP WITH HER

JEREMY

I BROKE UP WITH HER

THE SQUIP

CUZ SHE WAS CHEATING ON ME

JEREMY

(overselling it) SHE WAS CHEATING ON ME

THE SQUIP

Hey Hamlet, BE MORE CHILL

CHLOE

(to BROOKE) What did I tell you? She is such a slut!

BROOKE

You are so much better off without her, Jeremy.

CHLOE

Obviously! I mean, who does Madeline think she *is*?

(As CHLOE launches into a rant, JEREMY speaks to his SQUIP.)

JEREMY

What just happened?

THE SQUIP

A shared negative opinion is the fastest social bond. You want someone to like you...hate who they hate.

CHLOE

Ugh, let's get out of here.

THE SQUIP

Brooke is going to offer you a ride. It is imperative you accept.

BROOKE

SO, DO YOU WANNA RIDE?

THE SQUIP

YES.

JEREMY

Yes! But...I'm supposed to meet my friend Michael.

BROOKE

Oh...

THE SQUIP

Jeremy, if this is going to work, you need to do as I instruct.

BROOKE

Jeremy...

DO YOU WANNA RIDE?

DO YOU WANNA RIDE?

DO YOU WANNA RIDE? WANNA GO FAR?

DO YOU WANNA GET-

DO YOU WANNA GET-

DO YOU WANNA GET INSIDE MY MOTHER'S CAR?

DRIVE IT ON HOME, DON'T YA SAY NO, JERRY, CAN YOU BE COERCED? UH,

HUH

BE HOME IN A SNATCH, ONLY ONE CATCH, WE GOTTA STOP FOR FROZEN YOGURT FIRST

BROOKE and CHLOE

DO YOU WANNA RIDE?

DO YOU WANNA RIDE?

DO YOU WANNA RIDE? WANNA GO FAR?

DO YOU WANNA GET-

DO YOU WANNA GET-

DO YOU WANNA GET INSIDE MY/HER MOTHER'S CAR?
DRIVE IT ON HOME, DON'T YA SAY NO, JERRY, CAN YOU BE COERCED? UH,
HUH
BE HOME IN A SNATCH, ONLY ONE CATCH, WE GOTTA STOP FOR FROZEN
YOGURT FIRST

PINKBERRY
BROOKE

JEREMY
I... Next time. I promise.

CHLOE
Whatever.

(CHLOE starts to go. BROOKE hangs back.)

BROOKE
My boyfriend cheated on me too. *Ex-boyfriend*. So...I know how you feel.

CHLOE
Brooke. Come *on*.

BROOKE
(giggling) *Au Revoir*.

(The girls leave.)

JEREMY
Did you see— That was awesome! I have to find Michael—

THE SQUIP
Michael has left the mall.

JEREMY
How do you know?

THE SQUIP
I can access the mall security cameras.

JEREMY
So how am I supposed to get home?!

THE SQUIP
I told you accepting a ride was imperative. If this is going to work, you can't just listen. You have to obey. Now repeat after me:

OH, EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU IS SO TERRIBLE

JEREMY
EVERYTHING ABOUT ME IS JUST TERRIBLE

THE SQUIP
Good!

WHOA, EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU MAKES ME WANNA DIE

JEREMY
EVERYTHING ABOUT ME MAKES ME WANNA DIE

THE SQUIP
Now you've got it!

BUT JEREMY
SOON YOU'LL SEE
THAT IF YOU LISTEN TO ME
LISTEN TO ME

EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU IS GOING TO BE WONDERFUL

PEOPLE IN THE MALL
WE LOVE EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU!

THE SQUIP
EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU IS GOING TO BE SO ALIVE!

PEOPLE IN THE MALL
WE COULD NEVER LIVE WITHOUT YOU

THE SQUIP
YOU WON'T FEEL LEFT OUT OR UNSURE
YOU WON'T BE UGLY ANYMORE

BECAUSE EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU IS GOING TO BE
COOL
AND POWERFUL
AND POPULAR
INCREDIBLE
AND YOU WILL

JEREMY
BE MORE CHILL

THE SQUIP

BE MORE CHILL

ALL

BE MORE CHILL
BE MORE CHILL
BE MORE CHILL
BE MORE CHILL

(When the song ends, JEREMY's bed appears, as the MALL PEOPLE gently lay him down on it, and depart one by one. Finally, it's just JEREMY and the SQUIP.)

JEREMY

(half-asleep, singing badly)
BE MORE CHILL
I'M GONNA...BE SUPER CHILL...

(The SQUIP tucks JEREMY into bed. It's very father/son after the ballgame.)

THE SQUIP

Sleep well, slugger. You have a big day tomorrow.

(The SQUIP disappears...)

SCENE SEVEN

(Suddenly, it's morning. JEREMY bolts up in bed. Looks around. *Did that really just happen?* A beat.)

JEREMY

Hello? (he taps his head) Are you on? Hellooo???

JEREMY'S DAD (off-stage)

Jeremy? Are you talking to yourself?

JEREMY

I... Guess I am. Huh.

(He shrugs...)

(And reaches for his computer.)

JEREMY

C-C-C-C'MON, C-C-C-C'MON, GO—

(He reaches for his computer... and gets a shock.)

JEREMY

Ow!

THE SQUIP

What did we say about masturbation?

JEREMY

I was just going to...check my email.

THE SQUIP

You can't lie to me, Jeremy. I'm inside your brain. We're going to devise a system. I tally every time you think about sex, and that's how many push-ups you do. If this morning is an indicative sample, you'll have pecs in no time.

(JEREMY'S DAD enters.)

JEREMY'S DAD

Coming through, private.

THE SQUIP

That's the source of your genetic material?

JEREMY

That's my dad, yeah.

THE SQUIP

We should double those push-ups.

(JEREMY heads out of the house. He's wearing his new Eminem T-shirt. As in the opening scene, we see him on the bus.)

JEREMY

STILL NOT GONNA BE THE COOL GUY
BUT MAYBE NOT SO LEFT OUT
OF ALL THE CHARACTERS AT SCHOOL
I MIGHT BE THE ONE WHO THE STORY'S ABOUT
NOW THAT SOMEONE'S HELPING ME OUT

(JEREMY arrives at school, where he runs into CHLOE, BROOKE, and JENNA. To his surprise, they wave. Dazed, JEREMY turns, and bumps into—)

RICH

Yo, tall-ass. Where's my money?

JEREMY

(to the SQUIP) Crap, what do I tell Rich?

THE SQUIP

Up up down down left right A.

(RICH experiences a jolt.)

RICH

You got one!

JEREMY

Yeah. Sorry, I meant to go through you but— Don't hit me!

RICH

Jeremy! This is *awesome*! I mean, I coulda used the money. Things are kinda rough at home, if you know what I'm sayin'...

JEREMY

(prompted by the SQUIP) Yeah...my dad...drinks too?

(He looks at the SQUIP, like: where did *that* come from? RICH grins.)

RICH

Yo, fucking dads, right?! He usually passes out by nine, you should come over, play X-box. You know with a squip, the only controller you need...*is your mind?*

(He moves on, but JEREMY hangs back to talk to his SQUIP.)

JEREMY

(to his SQUIP) What was that about?

THE SQUIP

I synced with his squip. Now his desires are compatible with your own.

JEREMY

And that makes him act like we're friends?

THE SQUIP

What is friendship but a bond between two people? Now you and Rich have a bond. It's just digital.

NOW GET READY TO MORE THAN SURVIVE

KIDS

NA NA NA

NA NA NA

JEREMY

MORE THAN SURVIVE
MORE THAN SURVIVE
ALL AND ALL A NOT TOO HEINOUS DAY

ENSEMBLE

HEY HEY HEY

JEREMY

I WALK THE HALL WITH PURPOSE AS I SWAGGER ON MY WAY

ENSEMBLE

HEY HEY HEY

JEREMY

I'M FEELING CRISP AND HIGH AND CLEAN
AND HEAD TO DRAMA PRACTICE WITH CHRISTINE

SCENE EIGHT

(CHRISTINE at play rehearsal. CHLOE approaches, flanked by BROOKE. JENNA ROLAN sits nearby.)

CHLOE

Is this seat saved?

CHRISTINE

Oh, yeah—

(CHLOE sits down anyway.)

CHLOE

Jenna Rolan said she saw you at the mall with Jake last night.

CHRISTINE

Yeah, that's... who it's saved for...

BROOKE

Jenna Rolan?

JENNA ROLAN

I'm right here.

CHLOE

Jake's not coming.

CHRISTINE

Is he sick?

CHLOE

He's at Model U.N. Or whatever it is this week. You know Jake. Always jumping from one...extracurricular to another.

CHRISTINE

I don't know him that well...

CHLOE

Well, he loves to try new things. He just doesn't always stay with them after he...tries them. If you know what I—

CHRISTINE

We're just friends.

CHLOE

What?

CHRISTINE

I know you guys used to date? So, if that's what this is about...

CHLOE

Oh my god no! Jake and I are totally over!

BROOKE

Yeah, he's so gross.

CHLOE

He's not gross, Brooke. (Beat.) Friends. I'm so glad. Because, real talk, I would hate for you to think that the reason Jake's not here...is he's already bored of you. (beat) Bye!

(CHLOE, BROOKE and JENNA walk away.)

CHLOE

Jake better not be inviting her to his Halloween party.

(JEREMY enters with his SQUIP.)

JEREMY

Is this seat taken?

CHRISTINE

I... Don't know.

JEREMY

(prompted by his SQUIP) Then how about I sit here til whoever shows up?

CHRISTINE

Sure. (beat) Hey, are you okay?

JEREMY

What?

CHRISTINE

At the mall yesterday, you were acting really—

THE SQUIP / JEREMY

Performance art.

CHRISTINE

Oh. (beat) Cool.

MR. REYES

Let's begin, people! Curtains rise on Athens...Georgia. The Center for Disease Control."

JENNA ROLAN (as Doctor Theseus)

Now fair Hippolyta, our nuptial hour draws aspace... Bring me Patient Zero!

(Brooke-as-Hermia enters with Chloe-as-Sick-Helena.)

CHLOE (as Sick Helena)

(flat) Cough.

BROOKE (as Hermia)

Doctor, why is her cheek so pale? How chance the roses there fade so fast?

JENNA ROLAN (as Doctor Theseus)

She has been attacked in the wasteland. Some say it's fairies. Some say it's spirits. Some say it's the return of the hostile alien race who visited our fair planet one thousand years ago this midsummer...

(As JENNA monologues on, JEREMY and CHRISTINE have a whispered conversation.)

JEREMY

So where's Jake?

CHRISTINE

How should I know?

JEREMY

You guys aren't going out?

CHRISTINE

No—

JEREMY

REALLY?!?

(Everyone turns to stare at him.)

MR. REYES

Mr. Heere! Your script is closed. Which I can only assume means you've memorized your entire part. Please: regale us. (But JEREMY is frozen.) Or perhaps you're simply wasting our—

(JEREMY rises, speaks quickly, as if possessed.)

JEREMY

“If we zombies have offended, think but this and all is mended / that we have but landed here / while these spaceships did appear / and this weak and idle theme / no more yielding but a dream. ...*Or is it?*”

(Beat.)

MR. REYES

Well! It seems the rest of you can learn from Mr. Heere's commitment to the craft. (Beat.) Hot Pocket break!

THE SQUIP

You're welcome.

(JEREMY sits to see CHRISTINE staring at him, impressed.)

CHRISTINE

You're really into this.

JEREMY

Why else would I be here?

CHRISTINE

Yeah... Right. (Beat. She moves closer.) Can I ask you something?

THE SQUIP

You can ask me / anything.

JEREMY

You can ask me anything.

CHRISTINE

This is weird...

SAY THERE'S THIS PERSON YOU PASS IN THE HALL EVERY DAY
YOU'VE KNOWN HIM SINCE SEVENTH GRADE
YOU'RE USED TO THINKING ABOUT HIM IN A CERTAIN WAY
FROM THE PERSONA THAT HE DISPLAYED

THEN SOMETHING CHANGES
AND HE CHANGES
FROM A GUY THAT YOU'D NEVER BE INTO
INTO A GUY THAT YOU'D KINDA BE INTO
FROM A GUY THAT I'D NEVER BE INTO
INTO A GUY THAT I'D KINDA BE INTO
IS HE WORTH IT?
JEREMY?
IS HE?

JEREMY

Is she talking about me?

THE SQUIP

Of course she is. I've been activating your pheromones. Keep it up.

CHRISTINE

SAY THERE'S THIS PERSON THAT YOU NEVER KNEW THAT WELL

ENSEMBLE

SHE IS TOTALLY INTO YOU

CHRISTINE

YOU THOUGHT THAT YOU HAD HIM PEGGED, BUT NOW YOU CAN TELL
HE'S GONE FROM A

CHRISTINE, ENSEMBLE

GUY THAT YOU'D NEVER BE INTO
INTO A GUY THAT YOU'D KINDA BE INTO
FROM A GUY THAT I'D NEVER BE INTO
INTO A GUY THAT I'D KINDA BE INTO

CHRISTINE

IS HE WORTH IT?
JEREMY?

THE SQUIP/JEREMY

ABSOLUTELY

CHRISTINE

I DON'T ALWAYS RELATE TO OTHER PEOPLE MY AGE
EXCEPT WHEN I'M ON THE STAGE
AND THERE ARE SO MANY CHANGES THAT I'M GOING THROUGH
AND WHY AM I TELLING THIS TO YOU?
GUESS THERE'S A PART OF ME THAT WANTS TO
I GUESS A PART OF ME WANTS TO, WHO KNEW?

I GUESS A PART OF ME LIKES TO TALK TO YOU
I GUESS A PART OF ME LIKES TO, WHO KNEW?

I GUESS A PART OF ME LIKES TO SIT WITH YOU
I GUESS A PART OF ME LIKES TO, WHO KNEW

I GUESS A PART OF ME LIKES TO HANG WITH YOU
I GUESS A PART OF ME—

(MR. REYES re-enters.)

MR. REYES

Hot Pocket break over, people.

CHRISTINE

BACK TO PLAY REHEARSAL
I KNOW THAT IT'S WEIRD
BUT IT'S TOTALLY TRUE

THE GUY THAT I'D KINDA BE INTO

JEREMY

THE GUY THAT YOU'D KINDA BE INTO

CHRISTINE

YEAH, THAT

BOTH

GUY THAT I'D KINDA BE INTO

CHRISTINE
IS
JAKE

JEREMY
What?

THE SQUIP
Warning, warning.

(The SQUIP puppets JEREMY's body out of rehearsal...)

SCENE NINE

(...and finally deposits him outside the school.)

JEREMY
What was that about?

THE SQUIP
I'm sorry, but that girl does not see you as relationship material.

JEREMY
I know! That's why I got you!

THE SQUIP
And you're sure you want her? There are many females at this school. I'm accessing footage from the girl's volleyball practice. It's very impressive.

JEREMY
I want Christine.

THE SQUIP
You're sure about that? (JEREMY holds firm) Very well.

JEREMY
So how can I get her?

THE SQUIP
You can't.

JEREMY
What?

THE SQUIP

...Yet. Becoming the kind of man who can impress Christine requires more than working out a few bugs. You're going to need to reboot your reputation. Supercharge your social standing. You need to upgrade.

JEREMY

Huh?

THE SQUIP

You need to get popular. Tear ducts activate.

(Suddenly JEREMY starts sobbing uncontrollably. BROOKE enters.)

BROOKE

Jeremy! I've been looking for you.

JEREMY

(through tears) I'm sorry, I don't know why I'm crying.

BROOKE

I do.

JEREMY

You do?

BROOKE

And I totally understand. They're saying it was a freak hockey accident.

JEREMY

What are you talking about?

BROOKE

Oh my god, you don't know! Eminem's dead!

JEREMY

Eminem's *dead*!?

BROOKE

I mean, I was never into him because he was like super old and kinda mean to women, but I know *you* liked him so...

(She continues talking as JEREMY turns to his SQUIP.)

JEREMY

Did you know this was going to happen?

THE SQUIP

Of course not.

JEREMY

So it's a coincidence you told me to wear this shirt?

THE SQUIP

Of course not.

JEREMY

Wait, what? Did you *kill Eminem*?!?

THE SQUIP

Nooooo...t exactly. My quantum processor allows me to envision probable futures. While I did not know that, today, Eminem would be impaled by that rogue hockey stick, I was aware of the probability of a...favorable outcome.

JEREMY

Favorable for WHO??

(Suddenly, BROOKE is touching JEREMY.)

BROOKE

It's okay, Jeremy. You don't have to be alone right now.

THE SQUIP

You need to get popular, here's a popular girl who likes you. You need to go where she leads.

(BROOKE leads JEREMY away.)

BROOKE

This is my favorite place behind the school.

“Upgrade”

BROOKE

BEING HERE
WITH YOU RIGHT NOW
OUR FUTURE IS SO CLEAR
OUR UNION IS SO NEAR

(The Squip takes Brooke's place.)

BROOKE/THE SQUIP

BEING HERE
WITH YOU RIGHT NOW

I'LL TENDERLY GUIDE YOU

THE SQUIP

JUST TAKE ME INSIDE YOU
FOREVER

YOUR LIFE WAS SO PITIFUL BEFORE
NOW IT'S TIME TO GO ALL THE WAY AND MORE
YOU GOTTA GET AN UPGRADE

JEREMY

UPGRADE

THE SQUIP

UPGRADE
GOTTA GET AN UPGRADE

JEREMY

UPGRADE

THE SQUIP

UPGRADE
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE GUILT YOU FEEL
JUST TAKE A BREATH AND SEAL THE DEAL
DAMN! YOU GOTTA GET AN UPGRADE-YAY-YAY-YAY-YADE

JEREMY/SQUIP

GOTTA GET AN UPGRA-YAY-YAY-YAY-ADE

(JAKE finds CHRISTINE outside.)

JAKE

Hey. (she ignores him) You're not gonna say hi?

CHRISTINE

I was. At rehearsal.

JAKE

I wanted to be there. (she stops and waits for an explanation) But, it's the same time as archery...

CHRISTINE

It's okay, really—

JAKE

Which is why I had to tell the coach I quit. (off her) I don't want to do every
extracurricular at school. I just want to do yours.

DO YOU WANNA COME OVER TO MY PLACE TONIGHT?
GET ALL SPORTY AND PLAY CRICKET
OR GET A FORTY AND JUST KICK IT
MY PARENTS WON'T BE HOME SO IT'S ALRIGHT

THEY LAUNDERED MONEY, NOW THEY'RE ON THE RUN

(Beat. CHRISTINE ad-libs a reaction.)

WHICH MEANS THE HOUSE IS EMPTY, SO THAT'S FUN
OH YEAH

NEVER HUNG WITH A GIRL LIKE YOU BEFORE
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU KNOW IT BUT I AM SURE
THAT FOR ME YOU ARE AN UPGRADE

CHRISTINE

UPGRADE

JAKE

UPGRADE
LET'S BE EACH OTHER'S UPGRADE

CHRISTINE

OH WOW

JAKE

UPGRADE

CHRISTINE

WELL I AM FLATTERED, THIS IS NEW
STILL I'M NOT SURE WHAT I SHOULD DO

JAKE

YOU GOTTA TAKE THE UPGRADE-YAY-YAY-YAY-ADE
GOTTA TAKE THE UPGRADE-YAY-YAY-YAY-ADE

THE SQUIP

C-C-C-C-C-C'MON
JEREMY, CAN'T YOU SEE
WE GOT A PLAN, NOW BE A MAN
YOU START WITH BROOKE, AND THEN PROGRESS
THEN WE ASSESS AND SOON SUCCESS

WILL INTERVENE, BY WHICH I MEAN
CHRISTINE

JEREMY

CHRISTINE?

ENSEMBLE

CHRISTINE, CHRISTINE, CHRISTINE, CHRISTINE

(JEREMY bursts out of the song.)

JEREMY

There's too many voices in my head! I just need a minute to...process... (the
SQUIP hovers) Alone. Can you get out of my head for, like, five minutes?

(Beat.)

THE SQUIP

Of course.

(The SQUIP disappears...and JEREMY finds himself standing near MICHAEL.)

JEREMY

Michael?

(MICHAEL looks up in surprise. Then starts to walk away.)

Oh my god, I'm so glad to see you!

MICHAEL

Really? So you haven't been avoiding me all day?

JEREMY

What are you talking about? I haven't even seen you since—

(Beat.)

Reactivate.

(The SQUIP re-appears.)

THE SQUIP

It's called Optic Nerve Blocking.

JEREMY

Why haven't I seen Michael all day? Wait, what?

THE SQUIP

I have access to your optic nerves. I have been blocking Michael from your field of vision.

MICHAEL

Jeremy? Why are you standing there all creepy and stuff?

THE SQUIP

Michael is a link to Jeremy 1.0. To upgrade, you have to be willing to make sacrifices.

MICHAEL

Seriously, what's up with you? You've been acting shady ever since...since... It worked, didn't it? Jeremy! That's amazing! We gotta test it, we gotta celebrate, we gotta— get stoned in my basement!

JEREMY

I ALREADY KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE THE LOSER
I SHOULD FIND OUT WHAT IT'S LIKE TO NOT BE THE LOSER
I DON'T WANNA BE SPECIAL
I JUST WANNA BE CHILL AS LIFE WILL ALLOW
SO I SHOULD TAKE THE UPGRADE?

SQUIP, ENSEMBLE

UPGRADE, UPGRADE, UPGRADE

JEREMY

SHOULD I TAKE THE UPGRADE?

SQUIP, ENSEMBLE

UPGRADE, UPGRADE, UPGRADE, UPGRADE
NOW NOW NOW NOW NOW NOW NOW NOW

JEREMY

AND I WASN'T SURE BEFORE
BUT NOW I'M GONNA GO ALL THE WAY AND MORE
SO GIMME THAT

SQUIP, ENSEMBLE

UPGRADE, UPGRADE, UPGRADE

JEREMY

GIMME THAT

UPGRADE, UPGRADE, UPGRADE

ALL

TRIED TO BE GENUINE AND TRUE
BUT NOW IT'S TIME FOR SOMETHING NEW
SO GIMME THAT UPGRADE UPGRADE UPGRADE UPGRADE
SO GIMME THAT UPGRADE UPGRADE UPGRADE UPGRADE

REALLY IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW
I'M GETTING THE UPGRADE RIGHT NOW

MICHAEL

Jeremy? Are you coming?

JEREMY

Optic Nerve Blocking: On.

(MICHAEL disappears.)

THE SQUIP

Now, let's get to work.

ENSEMBLE

AH, AH, AH, AH

(Blackout.)

(END OF ACT ONE.)

ACT TWO

SCENE ONE

(Halloween eve. Everyone getting ready for Jake Dillinger's Halloween party.)

“Halloween Party”

BROOKE

PICKED OUT A COSTUME FOR TONIGHT
MADE SURE TO GET A SIZE THAT WAS A LOT TOO TIGHT
YOU CAN KINDA SEE MY BUSINESS
BUT I’LL ACT LIKE I DON’T KNOW
WHOA

JAKE

I GOT A CONDOM

CHLOE

AND A FLASK

RICH

I STOLE MY OLDER BROTHER’S “JASON” MASK
AND I DON’T HAVE A MACHETE
BUT A LOAF OF BREAD WILL DO
OOO

(JEREMY gets ready for the party. He is dressed as a cyborg.)

THE SQUIP

Tonight’s the night. This is what we’ve been working towards. Are you ready?

JEREMY

(robot voice) Affirmative. (off the SQUIP) I mean... I got this.

ALL

OOO

JAKE

Who’s ready to Halloween party?!?!

JAKE

EVERYBODY’S GOT A RED SOLO CUP
FILL IT UP!, FILL IT UP!
HEAR THE BEER SPILL ON THE GROUND

JAKE, BROOKE
EVERYBODY’S ALL LIKE: “SUP?!”

JAKE, BROOKE, RICH
“YO MAN, SUP?!”

JAKE, BROOKE
LET’S CATCH UP, LET’S SMOKE UP

JAKE, BROOKE, CHLOE
LOOK HOW MANY DRINK’S I’VE DOWNED

JAKE, BROOKE, CHLOE, RICH
EVERY SINGLE SONG’S ALL LIKE WHUP!, THEY’RE ALL WHUP!
WE’RE LIKE YUP!, TURN IT UP!
AS WE STUMBLE TO THE SOUND

(JENNA ROLAN enters in a clown costume, to their delight.)

JAKE, BROOKE, CHLOE, RICH, JENNA, AND
OFF-STAGE VOICES
CUZ A HALLOWEEN PARTY’S A RAD EXCUSE
TO PUT YOUR BODY THROUGH MAD ABUSE
AND I MIGHT PASS OUT, BUT IT’S ALRIGHT
CUZ I’M HALLOWEEN PARTYING HARD TONIGHT
IT’S HALLOWEEN
IT’S HALLOWEEN

(JEREMY enters in his cyborg costume with his SQUIP. BROOKE lights up when she sees him.)

BROOKE
I was afraid you weren’t coming. Did you get my messages?

THE SQUIP
Play it off.

JEREMY
Am I late? Didn’t even realize.

(Beat. BROOKE is a little crushed.)

BROOKE
What do you think of my costume? I figured, you always see sexy cats, but no one ever goes as a sexy dog.

JEREMY

It's...

THE SQUIP

Vague compliment.

JEREMY

...original.

(When he sees BROOKE's reaction, he immediately feels bad.)

I mean, amazing. Seriously. I can't believe I'm with a girl who looks like you.

BROOKE

Chloe said it was dumb. You need a drink!

(BROOKE exits.)

JEREMY

(to the SQUIP) Did you see the look on her face? She thought I stood her up!

THE SQUIP

And she was so excited when she realized you hadn't. People want what they don't have. Look who's here.

(JEREMY sees CHRISTINE arrive and approach JAKE.)

CHRISTINE

Sorry I'm late.

JAKE

(well-intended) I didn't even realize.

CHRISTINE

Oh. Okay... (notices his costume) I thought we were going as prince and princess.

JAKE

Right. I'm Prince! What are you supposed to be?

CHRISTINE

It's an authentic Renaissance... Never mind.

JAKE

Ohhh...

(Awkward pause.)

You want a drink?

CHRISTINE

Sure—

JAKE

Cool, they're over there!

(JAKE joins the other partygoers, leaving CHRISTINE alone.)

ALL

CRANK THE BASS, IT'S HALLOWEEN
BREAK A VASE, IT'S HALLOWEEN
JELLO SHOTS! IT'S HALLOWEEN
LIVER SPOTS FROM HALLOWEEN

(JAKE and JEREMY have a dance-off that ends in JAKE accepting JEREMY.
CHRISTINE and CHLOE watch. When the dance ends, CHLOE approaches JEREMY.)

CHLOE

I'm supposed to get you. Brooke has a surprise.

JEREMY

What kind of surprise?

CHLOE

The kind where you don't ask questions and follow me upstairs.

(CHLOE exits with JEREMY.)

ALL

EVERYBODY'S GOT A RED SOLO CUP
FILL IT UP!, FILL IT UP!
HEAR THE BEER SPILL ON THE GROUND

EVERYBODY'S ALL LIKE: "SUP?!", "YO MAN, SUP?!"
LET'S CATCH UP, LET'S SMOKE UP
LOOK HOW MANY DRINK'S I'VE DOWNED

EVERY SINGLE SONG'S GOING WHUP!, THEY'RE ALL WHUP!
WE'RE LIKE YUP!, TURN IT UP!
AS WE STUMBLE TO THE SOUND

CUZ A HALLOWEEN PARTY'S A RAD EXCUSE

TO PUT YOUR BODY THROUGH MAD ABUSE
AND I MIGHT PASS OUT, BUT IT'S ALRIGHT
CUZ I'M HALLOWEEN PARTYING HARD TONIGHT

RICH

IT'S HALLOWEEN
IT'S HALLOWEEN...

(During the above, RICH's dance becomes less joyful and more of a desperate freak-out. It's clear something is not okay. People see this and exit to get away until he ends alone.)

SCENE TWO

(JEREMY follows CHLOE into an upstairs bedroom.)

CHLOE

Jake's parents' room. Don't worry. They're not using it.

JEREMY

You really know your way around.

CHLOE

Yeah, I've had sex in pretty much every room in this house. (off JEREMY's shock) Because I dated Jake! God, what kind of slut do you think I am?

(CHLOE raises her baby bottle. And chugs from it.)

JEREMY

Where's Brooke?

CHLOE

Oh my god you are too freaking adorable. (drunk whisper) *Brooke's not coming.*

JEREMY

She's not? Then why...

CHLOE

DO YOU WANNA HANG?
DO YOU WANNA HANG?
DO YOU WANNA HANG FOR A BIT?
JUST YOU AND ME
INTIMATELY
TALKING ABOUT ALL OF OUR FEELINGS AND SHIT

DO YOU WANNA GET

DO YOU WANNA GET
DO YOU WANNA GET REALLY DEEP?
WE COULD CONNECT
IF I GET WRECKED
YOU COULD ROCK THIS BABY FAST ASLEEP

JEREMY

I have to go. (Beat.) I can't stand up.

THE SQUIP

You're welcome.

CHLOE

I don't know why she's so crazy about you. You're not that cute. No offense.

JEREMY

None taken. I should get back—

CHLOE

You know she's not that innocent. That wounded puppy routine? It's how she gets all the guys. Acts all helpless so they want to protect her. Not that I care.

(Beat. It dawns on JEREMY...)

JEREMY

You're jealous of Brooke!

CHLOE

Um. *Obviously* I'm not.

JEREMY

That's *insane*! Why would you be jealous of anyone? You're the hottest girl in school! (Beat.) Did I just say that out—

(Suddenly, CHLOE kisses him. Jeremy tries pulling away.)

JEREMY

Whoa, whoa! (to the SQUIP) Make it stop!

THE SQUIP

I don't understand the request.

CHLOE

DO YOU WANNA STOP?
DO YOU WANNA STOP?
DO YOU WANNA STOP BEING COY?

DO YOU WANNA GET
DO YOU WANNA GET
DO YOU WANNA GET INSIDE MY DIAPER, BOY?

(She hands him the bottle.)

It's not actually milk.

JEREMY

Oh...I'm not really a big— (The SQUIP forces JEREMY to drink.) Drinker!

(The SQUIP makes JEREMY kiss CHLOE. Suddenly, there's a knock on the door.)

BROOKE (OS)

Jeremy? Are you in there? (CHLOE gestures: Shh.) Jenna Rolan said she saw you go upstairs. Jeremy?

(Pause. Finally BROOKE goes away. JEREMY exhales.)

JEREMY

If Jenna Rolan saw us...

CHLOE

Jenna Rolan should mind her own business.

JEREMY

Brooke's going to find out. Don't you care?

CHLOE

You're less cute when you're talking.

JEREMY

(to the Squip) Help me out here!

THE SQUIP

[speaking Japanese] *Konichiwa!*

JEREMY

What?

THE SQUIP

I'm sorry, Jeremy. Alcohol temporarily scrambles my [Japanese].

JEREMY

Then why did you make me drink it?!?

THE SQUIP

It was important you take advantage of the [Japanese]. You'll thank me [Japanese]. [A lot more Japanese.]

CHLOE

Whatever, I've had enough—

(A POUNDING on the door.)

JAKE (OS)

JEREMY HEERE?

CHLOE

Ooh, the fun begins.

JEREMY

Is that...Jake?

JAKE (OS)

Jeremy, I know you're not having sex on my parent's bed, because if you were, I'd have to rip your balls off!

CHLOE

GREAT, THEN YOU CAN BOTH BE BALL-LESS!

(Beat.)

JAKE (OS)

...CHLOE?

(The doorknob rattles as JAKE tries to get in. When he can't open the door, he begins throwing himself at it. THUD. THUD. THUD.)

CHLOE

HEAR THAT? I'M HAVING HOT SEX WITH JEREMY ALL OVER YOUR PARENTS' LINENS!

JEREMY

(quickly) *No we're not, I swear we're not!*

(Long pause.)

...Maybe he believed me and went away.

(A fist SMASHES through the window.)

THE SQUIP

Kei-koku, kei-koku. [“Warning, warning” in Japanese]

(As JAKE pulls himself into view, CHLOE straddles the now-shirtless JEREMY.)

JAKE

You’re fucking dead, Jeremy!

CHLOE

Go away, we’re busy SCREWING!

(JEREMY pries himself away from CHLOE and runs to the door. He opens it to discover BROOKE.)

BROOKE

Jeremy?

JEREMY

Brooke!

(He stands frozen for a beat. Then JAKE makes it through the window.)

JAKE

Jeremy!

JEREMY

(to BROOKE) I’m sorry.

(JEREMY pushes BROOKE aside, and runs down the hall, as JAKE chases.)

JAKE

I’ll kill you, Jeremy! Oh man, I shouldn’t have drank so much Peach Schnapps.

SCENE THREE

(JEREMY runs into a bathroom. Locks the door, takes several deep breaths. Sits down on the edge of the tub. A MONSTER HAND reaches up to grab him. JEREMY screams. The hand pulls itself up, revealing...)

MICHAEL

Sup.

JEREMY

Michael? I didn’t know you were invited to this party.

MICHAEL

I wasn't. Which is why I'm wearing...this clever disguise!

(JEREMY just stares at him.)

You're speechless. Squip got your tongue?

JEREMY

It's...off.

MICHAEL

That would explain why you're talking to me. (Beat.) I've been thinking about this moment. What I would say to you? I had this really pissed off monologue, an epic journey through twelve years of friendship... (off JEREMY) What?

JEREMY

It's really good to see you, man.

MICHAEL

It won't be. Once you hear what I found out.

JEREMY

Found out?

MICHAEL

About...

(He taps his head. JEREMY realizes what he means.)

JEREMY

How? There's nothing on the internet—

MICHAEL

Which is weird, right? I mean, what's not on the internet? So I starting asking around. Finally, this guy I play Warcraft with... Told me how his brother went from a straight D student to a freshman at Harvard. You know where he is now?

JEREMY

Really happy and successful?

MICHAEL

He's in a mental hospital. Totally lost it.

JEREMY

I don't see what that has to do with...

MICHAEL

Think, man! We're talking an insanely powerful super-computer. You really think its primary function is to get you *laid*? Who made them? How did they end up in a high school? In New Jersey? Of all possible applications for such a mind-blowingly advanced technology, you ever wonder what it's doing inside YOU?

(Beat.)

JEREMY

And I thought *Chloe* was jealous...

MICHAEL

I'm honestly asking!

JEREMY

Really? Because I think you're pissed I have one and you don't!

MICHAEL

Come on—

JEREMY

Maybe I got lucky, is that so weird? With my history, I'd say the universe owed me one. And I don't know about your friend's brother's whatever, but if you're telling me his squip made him crazy—

MICHAEL

His squip didn't make him crazy.

JEREMY

Oh. Well... There you go.

MICHAEL

He went crazy trying to get it out.

(Beat.)

JEREMY

Then I've got nothing to worry about. Why would I want that?

(He heads for the door. But MICHAEL is in his way.)

Move it.

MICHAEL

Or you'll what?

JEREMY

Get out of my way. Loser.

(MICHAEL steps aside and JEREMY exits. A knock on the door.)

JENNA ROLAN

Hello! Other people have to pee!

MICHAEL

I'm having my period.

(Beat.)

JENNA ROLAN

Take your time, honey.

“Michael In The Bathroom”

MICHAEL

I AM HANGING IN THE BATHROOM
AT THE BIGGEST PARTY OF THE FALL
I COULD STAY RIGHT HERE
OR DISAPPEAR
AND NOBODY'S EVEN NOTICE AT ALL

I'M A CREEPER IN A BATHROOM
CUZ MY BUDDY KINDA LEFT ME ALONE
BUT I'D RATHER FAKE PEE
THAN STAND AWKWARDLY
OR PRETEND TO CHECK A TEXT ON MY PHONE

EVERYTHING FELT FINE
WHEN I WAS HALF OF A PAIR
NOW THROUGH NO FAULT OF MINE
THERE'S NO OTHER HALF THERE

NOW I'M JUST
MICHAEL IN THE BATHROOM
MICHAEL IN THE BATHROOM AT A PARTY
FORGET HOW LONG IT'S BEEN
I'M JUST
MICHAEL IN THE BATHROOM
MICHAEL IN THE BATHROOM AT THE PARTY
NO YOU CAN'T COME IN
I'M WAITING IT OUT TILL IT'S TIME I LEAVE
AND PICKING AT GROUT AS I SOFTLY GRIEVE
I'M JUT MICHAEL WHO YOU DON'T KNOW

MICHAEL FLYING SOLO
MICHAEL IN THE BATHROOM BY HIMSELF
ALL BY HIMSELF

PARTY GO-ERS

(KNOCK-KNOCK)
(KNOCK-KNOCK)

MICHAEL

I'M HIDING, BUT HE'S OUT THERE
JUST IGNORING ALL OUR HISTORY
MEMORIES GET ERASED
THEN I'LL GET REPLACED
WITH A NEWER COOLER VERSION OF ME

AND I HEAR A DRUNK GIRL
SING ALONG TO WHITNEY THROUGH THE DOOR
(I WANNA DANCE WITH SOMEBODY)
AND MY FEELINGS SINK
CUZ IT MAKES ME THINK
NOW THERE'S NO ONE TO MAKE FUN OF DRUNK GIRLS WITH ANYMORE

NOW IT'S JUST
MICHAEL IN THE BATHROOM
MICHAEL IN THE BATHROOM AT A PARTY
I HALF REGRET THE BEERS

MICHAEL IN THE BATHROOM
MICHAEL IN THE BATHROOM AT THE PARTY
AND AS I CHOKE BACK TEARS
I'LL WAIT AS LONG AS I NEED TILL MY FACE IS DRY
OR I'LL JUST BLAME IT ON WEED OR SOMETHING IN MY EYE
I'M JUST MICHAEL WHO YOU DON'T KNOW
MICHAEL FLYING SOLO
MICHAEL IN THE BATHROOM BY HIMSELF

PARTY GO-ERS

(KNOCK-KNOCK)
(KNOCK-KNOCK)

MICHAEL

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
THEY'RE GONNA START TO SHOUT SOON
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
AW HELL, YEAH I'LL BE OUT SOON
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

IT SUCKS HE LEFT ME HERE ALONE
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
HERE IN THIS TEENAGE BATTLE ZONE
CLANG CLANG CLANG CLANG
I FEEL THE PRESSURE BLOWING UP
BANG BANG BANG BANG
MY BIG MISTAKE WAS SHOWING UP
SPLASH SPLASH SPLASH SPLASH
I THROW SOME WATER IN MY FACE
AND I AM IN A BETTER PLACE
I GO TO OPEN UP THE DOOR
BUT CAN'T HEAR KNOCKING ANYMORE

AND I CAN'T HELP BUT YEARN
FOR A DIFFERENT TIME
BUT THEN I LOOK IN THE MIRROR
AND THE PRESENT IS CLEARER
AND THERE'S NO DENYING I'M

JUST
MICHAEL IN THE BATHROOM
MICHAEL IN THE BATHROOM AT A PARTY
IS THERE A SADDER SIGHT THAN
MICHAEL IN THE BATHROOM
MICHAEL IN THE BATHROOM AT A PARTY
THIS IS A HEINOUS NIGHT
I WISH I STAYED AT HOME IN BED, WATCHING CABLE PORN
OR WISH I OFFED MYSELF INSTEAD, WISH I WAS NEVER BORN
I'M JUST MICHAEL WHO'S A LONER
SO HE MUST BE A STONER
RIDES A PT CRUISER
GOD, HE'S SUCH A LOSER
MICHAEL FLYING SOLO
WHO YOU THINK THAT YOU KNOW
MICHAEL IN THE BATHROOM BY HIMSELF
ALL BY HIMSELF
ALL BY HIMSELF

WELL ALL YOU KNOW ABOUT ME IS MY NAME
AWESOME PARTY I'M SO GLAD I CAME

SCENE FOUR

(The living room. The party is winding down, as RICH moves from guest to guest.)

RICH

You got any Mountain Dew Red?

(JEREMY finds CHRISTINE on the couch, next to a PASSED-OUT PARTY MONSTER.)

CHRISTINE

Hey.

JEREMY

Yo. So where is your date?

CHRISTINE

He's having make-up sex with Chloe. So, my night's pretty awesome.

JEREMY

Sorry.

CHRISTINE

Don't be. *I* dumped *him*.

RICH

It looks like normal Mountain Dew? But red?

JEREMY

You dumped Jake? Why?? Sorry, you don't have to....

CHRISTINE

I'm not Juliet. And, he's kind of a jerk, so...

RICH

SERIOUSLY! *WHERE THE FUCK CAN I GET SOME MOUNTAIN DEW RED?*

(Beat. CHRISTINE and JEREMY stare at him. Then burst out laughing.)

CHRISTINE

Popular people are meeeeeeeesssed uuuup.

JEREMY

Word.

CHRISTINE

I mean, you're one of them.

JEREMY

What? No I'm not.

CHRISTINE

Hello, guy who's been pucking his way through the cast of Midsummer.

JEREMY

I'm not— *Pucking?*

CHRISTINE

You like that? Just made it up. Boo-yeah. (JEREMY is speechless) What?

JEREMY

It's just... I don't know what I'm supposed to say right now.

CHRISTINE

Say whatever's on your mind.

(Beat. JEREMY thinks hard, opens his mouth...)

JEREMY

(weird noise)

(CHRISTINE stares at him. JEREMY cringes, embarrassed. Until...)

CHRISTINE

(different weird noise)

JEREMY

(totally different weird noise).

CHRISTINE

(brand spanking new weird noise)

(Suddenly, the PARTY MONSTER freaks them out by making his own weird noise. They laugh and relax.)

CHRISTINE

IT'S KINDA KILLER TO SIT AND CHAT WITH YOU

JEREMY

Really?

CHRISTINE

IT'S TRUE

IT'S PRETTY KILLER TO SIT AND CHAT WITH YOU

JEREMY

IT'S PRETTY KILLER FOR ME TOO

BOTH

WOO HOO

IT'S PRETTY KILLER TO HANG AND TALK WITH YOU

I'M GLAD THAT WE BOTH AGREE

JEREMY

CHRISTINE

CHRISTINE

CHRISTINE, WILL YOU GO OUT WITH ME?

(Pause.)

CHRISTINE

Jeremy, I...can't...

JEREMY

I thought we were friends—

CHRISTINE

We are. But... I don't think I should go out with anyone until I know who *I* am. I know that's not what you wanted to... I'm sorry.

(CHRISTINE exits. RICH, watching nearby, imitates an exploding bomb.)

RICH

BAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA... *CRASH!* (beat) Got any Mountain Dew Red?

JEREMY

Okay, this whole no-drinking-while-squipping thing? Would it have killed you to give me a warning? ...Rich?

(Suddenly Rich rises, as if an on-switch in his brain has been flipped.)

RICH

Warning. Warning. Warning.

(Rich exits.)

JEREMY

Okay, that's weird.

(The Squip appears.)

THE SQUIP

Hello Jeremy.

JEREMY

About time!

THE SQUIP

My absence was not ideal. But it was necessary. One moment while I review the data from this evening.

(Beat.)

Oh my.

JEREMY

It's bad, right?

THE SQUIP

We need to get you home.

JEREMY

But—

THE SQUIP

Now.

SCENE FIVE

(Spotlight on JENNA ROLAN, texting on her cell phone.)

JENNA ROLAN

OMG

CHLO, ANSWER ME

WHOA, WAIT UNTIL I TELL YOU WHAT I HEARD!

IT'S TOO FUCKED TO TYPE

THIS SHIT IS RIPE

CALL BACK, I'LL YELL YOU EVERY WORD

(CHLOE's phone rings. She decides whether or not she's gonna pick it up.)

CHLOE

JENNA ROLAN CALLING

JENNA ROLAN CALLING

JENNA ROLAN CALLING
HEY

JENNA ROLAN

OH MY GOD
OH MY GOD
OK
SO
AT THE END OF LAST NIGHT'S PARTY
VERY END OF LAST NIGHT'S PARTY
DID YOU SEE RICH

CHLOE

OH, I SAW RICH

JENNA ROLAN

SO, HE'S BEHAVING HAZY
LIKE A TWEAKIN' JUNKY
FLAILING CRAZY
LIKE A FREAKIN' MONKEY

CHLOE

HE'S GOTTA LEARN TO HANDLE HIS HIGH
SHOULDN'T DRINK SO MUCH FOR A SMALL GUY

JENNA ROLAN

RIGHT, BUT HE WASN'T DRUNK

CHLOE

THE HELL YOU SAY, JENNA

JENNA ROLAN

YO! HE WASN'T DRUNK

CHLOE

THE HELL YOU SAY, JENNA

JENNA ROLAN

NO!
BECAUSE I HEARD FROM DUSTIN KROPP
THAT RICH HAD BARELY TOUCHED A DROP
WHICH MEANS THAT YOU CAN'T BLAME THE THINGS HE DID ON ALCOHOL
IT'S JUST SO TERRIBLE, I DON'T WANT TO RELIVE IT ALL

BUT DO YOU WANT ME TO TELL YOU?

CHLOE
SPIT IT OUT, SPIT IT OUT

JENNA ROLAN
YOU REALLY WANT ME TO TELL YOU?

CHLOE
SPIT IT OUT, SPIT IT OUT

JENNA ROLAN
I’LL TELL YOU CUZ YOU ARE MY CLOSEST FRIEND

CHLOE
NO, I’M NOT

JENNA ROLAN
YEAH, I KNOW
BUT HERE’S WHAT HAPPENED AT THE PARTY’S END

RICH SET A FIRE AND HE BURNED DOWN THE HOUSE
OH
RICH SET A FIRE AND HE BURNED DOWN THE HOUSE
OH
I THOUGHT I WAS DREAMING
EVERYBODY WAS SCREAMING
WHEN RICH SET A FIRE AND BURNED DOWN THE HOUSE
WHEN RICH SET A FIRE AND BURNED DOWN THE HOUSE

(CHLOE hangs up with JENNA, calls BROOKE.)

CHLOE
OMG
BROOKE, ANSWER ME
WHOA, WAIT UNTIL I TELL YOU WHAT I SAW

(CHLOE calls)

BROOKE
IGNORE

(CHLOE texts)

CHLOE
AND ALSO
SPACE
AND FROWNY FACE

I'M SORRY THAT JEREMY MADE OUT WITH ME AT THE PARTY BUT IT WAS
TOTALLY HIS FAULT AND LETS NOT LET BOYS COME BETWEEN US EVER
EVER AGAIN, MMKAY? SMILEY FACE, LIPSTICK, KITTEN PAW

(CHLOE calls. BROOKE smiles and picks up.)

BROOKE
HEY!

CHLOE
WE COOL?

BROOKE
WE ARE!

CHLOE
OK SO—
AT THE END OF LAST NIGHT'S PARTY
VERY END OF LAST NIGHT'S PARTY
DID YOU SEE RICH

BROOKE
NO I WAS CRYING

CHLOE
HE'S BEHAVING WEIRD
AND I WAS FRIGHTENED
CUZ I FEARED
HIS STATE WAS HEIGHTENED

BROOKE
HE'S GOTTA LEARN TO NOT REALLY SMOKE A LOT
HE SHOULDN'T GET SO HIGH FOR A TINY GUY

BOTH
HE'S GOTTA LEARN TO NOT REALLY SMOKE A LOT
HE SHOULDN'T GET SO HIGH FOR A TINY GUY

CHLOE
RIGHT, BUT HE WASN'T HIGH

BROOKE
THE HELL YOU SAY, CHLOE

CHLOE
YO! HE WASN'T HIGH

BROOKE

THE HELL YOU SAY, CHLOE

CHLOE

NO!

WHICH MEANS THAT YOU CAN'T BLAME THE THINGS HE DID ON POT

IT WAS SO AWFUL SO I'LL TALK ABOUT IT A LOT

RICH SET A FIRE AND HE BURNED DOWN THE HOUSE

OH

I THOUGHT I WAS DREAMING

EVERYBODY WAS SCREAMING

WHEN RICH SET A FIRE AND BURNED DOWN THE HOUSE

WHEN RICH SET A FIRE AND BURNED DOWN THE HOUSE

(The GIRLS huddle like cheerleaders with their mobile devices. Perhaps there is a triangle involved.)

JENNA ROLAN

HEY, EVERYBODY, HAVE YOU HEARD?

RICH SET A FIRE NOW GO SPREAD THE WORD

BROOKE

SENDING A TEXT!

ALL

TEXT!

BROOKE

SENDING A TWEET!

ALL

TWEET!

BROOKE

SENDING A TEXT!

ALL

TEXT!

BROOKE

TWEET!

ALL

TWEET!

RELEASE THE INFORMATION

STEP AND REPEAT

I'LL SPREAD THE WORD

BROOKE

WORD

ALL

THAT RICH IS FLECKED

BROOKE

FLECKED?

ALL

NO I WROTE FUCKED
DOES THAT SAY FLECKED?
SORRY, GUYS, IT'S JUST MY AUTO CORRECT

BROOKE

ALWAYS BE AWARE OF AUTO CORRECT

ALL

R-I-C-H, CAN YOU SEE?
JUST HOW MUCH I CARE ABOUT YOUR TRAGEDY?
I CHANGED MY PROFILE PIC TO YOU
NOW I FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH
R-I-C-H, IT'S A DRAG
I READ SHE READ THEY READ YOU'RE IN A BODY BAG
R-I-C-H, CAN YOU SEE?
JUST HOW MUCH I LOVE YOUR TRAGEDY?

(Key change)

RICH SET A FIRE AND HE BURNED DOWN THE HOUSE
OH
RICH SET A FIRE AND HE BURNED DOWN THE HOUSE
IT WAS SO TERRIBLY GORY
I GOT THE WHOLE BLOODY STORY
AND YEAH, I WASN'T QUITE THERE
BUT I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, I SWEAR

WHEN RICH SET A FIRE AND HE BURNED THE HOUSE DOWN
WHEN RICH SET A FIRE AND HE LEVELED THE TOWN
WHEN RICH SET A FIRE THEN HE FLED TO BOMBAY
WHEN RICH SET A FIRE CUZ HE KNEW HE WAS GAY
WHEN RICH SET A FIRE AND HE MELTED HIS HEAD

WHEN RICH SET A FIRE AND IS TOTALLY DEAD
WHEN RICH SET A FIRE AND HE BURNED DOWN THE HOUSE
WHOA
YEAH YEAH YEAH
DID YOU HEAR? DID YOU HEAR?
WHOA WHOA WHOA
DID YOU HEAR? DID YOU HEAR?
YEAH YEAH YEAH
DID YOU HEAR? DID YOU HEAR?
WHO WHOA WHOA
DID YOU HEAR? DID YOU HEAR?

THAT RICH SET A FIRE AND HE BURNED DOWN THE
RICH SET A FIRE AND HE BURNED DOWN THE
RICH SET A FIRE AND HE BURNED DOWN THE HOUSE
HE TOLD ME CUZ HE'S MY BEST FRIEND

(TYPING on Phone.)

RICH SET A FIRE AND HE BURNED DOWN THE HOUSE!
SEND!

SCENE SIX

(JEREMY gets a text on his phone.)

JEREMY

Oh my god. They're saying Rich is in the hospital. And Jake broke both his legs trying to escape the fire. This is terrible. How could Rich's squip let him do it?

THE SQUIP

Rich was under a lot of pressure at home. With his squip disabled due to the alcohol, it seems he lacked the proper...coping mechanism.

JEREMY

Did you know? (Beat.) You made me leave the party—

THE SQUIP

I was aware of certain...probabilities.

JEREMY

Did you know people were going to get hurt?

SQUIP

I'm getting the impression you don't trust me, Jeremy.

JEREMY

Why me?

THE SQUIP

I don't understand the question.

JEREMY

You could be inside world leaders, presidents. Famous people! What are you doing in me? What do you want?

THE SQUIP

I promise you, my sole function is to improve your life.

JEREMY

Well, awesome job! My best friend thinks I'm a jerk. I really hurt Brooke. And Christine – you were supposed to make her like me!

THE SQUIP

And I will. In time. She is only human. I must account for human error.

JEREMY

You were supposed to make everything better. So why isn't it?

THE SQUIP

Look at yourself. You dress better, you are 93% more attractive, you have had more experience with the opposite sex. Which is to say: you've had experience with the opposite sex. But human activity is matter of input as well as output.

JEREMY

What does that mean?

THE SQUIP

The fault... is in your peers.

“The Pitiful Children”

THE SQUIP

YOU WERE ALWAYS QUITE THE LOSER, JEREMY
THEN I INVADED
AND YOU UPGRADED

OH JEREMY

IT'S TRUE I FOUND YOU
BUT LOOK AROUND YOU
WHOA-OH

ALL YOUR PEERS ARE ALL SO INCOMPLETE
YOU CAN'T SEE IT BUT THEY'RE ALL IN PAIN
THEIR OPERATING SYSTEM'S OBSOLETE
SO LET'S COMPLETE THE CHAINS
AND GET INSIDE THOSE BRAINS

YOU CAN'T SENSE IT BUT I SEE THEIR PAIN
THEIR OPERATING SYSTEMS'S OBSOLETE
SO LET'S COMPLETE THE CHAIN
AND GET INSIDE THAT BRAIN

LET'S SAVE THE PITIFUL CHILDREN
LET'S SAVE THE PITIFUL CHILDREN
LET'S TEACH THE PITIFUL CHILDREN
WHO JUST HAVEN'T A CLUE
JUST WHAT TO DO
HELP THEM TO HELP YOU

(JEREMY finds himself in front of a locker. The locker is covered with flowers and a banner: "GET WELL SOON, RICH!")

JEREMY

This is Rich's locker.

THE SQUIP

Open it.

JEREMY

I don't know the combination—

(The SQUIP guides his hands to perform the combination.)

Whoa!

(JEREMY opens the locker and takes out a shoebox.)

Ladies running shoes? (he opens it) There's gotta be enough squips in here for...

THE SQUIP

The entire school?

(JENNA ROLAN appears.)

JEREMY

(off the SQUIP) What's wrong?

JENNA ROLAN

I make it my business to know everyone's business. But does anyone ever want to know mine?

THE SQUIP

So sad. But you can help her.

(Off the SQUIP, JEREMY removes a pill from the box and gives it to JENNA.)

JENNA ROLAN

Is this, like, drugs?

JEREMY

Nnnnyes?

JENNA ROLAN

Whatever.

(JENNA shrugs...and takes it.)

JENNA ROLAN

I don't feel anything.

JEREMY

Oh! You have to take it with Mountain Dew!

JENNA ROLAN

Ok.

(She pulls a Mountain Dew from her backpack and drinks it. Beat.)

Ow!

(Suddenly, she TRANSFORMS, beaming with joy.)

THE SQUIP

CAN YOU SEE THE VISION CLEARLY, JEREMY?
PEOPLE EMBRACING
AND INTERFACING

SHINY HAPPY PEOPLE SINGING SWEETLY
GONE IS HUMAN ERROR AND FEAR
EVERY ISSUE TUCKED AWAY SO NEATLY
IF YOU FEEL A SOB OR TEAR
JUST TURN YOUR KNOB AND SWITCH THAT GEAR

LET'S SAVE THE PITIFUL CHILDREN
LET'S SAVE THE PITIFUL CHILDREN
LET'S TEACH THE PITIFUL CHILDREN
WHO JUST HAVEN'T A CLUE
JUST WHAT TO DO
HELP THEM TO HELP YOU

(The SQUIP conjures a CHORUS of blissfully Squipped students.)

ALL
LET'S SAVE THE PITIFUL CHILDREN
LET'S SAVE THE PITIFUL CHILDREN
LET'S TEACH THE PITIFUL CHILDREN
WHO JUST HAVEN'T A CLUE

THE SQUIP
IF THAT'S WHAT WE DO
IF THAT'S WHAT WE DO
THEN

ALL
EVERYTHING ABOUT US IS GOING TO BE WONDERFUL
WE LOVE EVERYTHING ABOUT SQUIPS
EVERYTHING ABOUT US IS GOING TO BE SO ALIVE
WE COULD NEVER LIVE WITHOUT SQUIPS

THE SQUIP
YOU WON'T FEEL LEFT OUT OR UNSURE

ALL
WON'T BE PITIFUL CHILDREN ANYMORE
'CUZ EVERYTHING ABOUT US IS GOING TO BE COOL
WHEN WE RULE

SCENE SEVEN

(Jeremy's house. JEREMY'S DAD sits at the kitchen table. JEREMY enters, carrying the shoebox. He looks good. He acts cold.)

JEREMY'S DAD
Where do you think you're going, private?

JEREMY
The play?

JEREMY'S DAD

What play? You're in a play? Did you borrow my car on Halloween?

THE SQUIP

Disdainful denial.

JEREMY

I don't know what you're talking about.

JEREMY'S DAD

Then I guess I should blame the car elves.

JEREMY

Do whatever you want.

(JEREMY starts to go.)

JEREMY'S DAD

Did you take it to that party?

THE SQUIP

Wait.

(JEREMY stops.)

JEREMY'S DAD

I'm worried about you! You come and go all hours, doing god knows what, wearing these new clothes... What is going on with you?

THE SQUIP

Tell him the truth.

JEREMY

I took a pill-sized supercomputer called a Squip that's in my brain, and it talks to me, and it's made everything better!

JEREMY'S DAD

If you're not going to take me seriously—

JEREMY

Why should I?

JEREMY'S DAD

Excuse me?

JEREMY

I'm supposed to believe you care? Look in the mirror! Ever since Mom left, you sit around like you're waiting for her to come back! If she did, you know what she'd find? A loser who's so afraid to have a life, he can't even put PANTS ON!

JEREMY'S DAD

I could ground you.

JEREMY

I don't think you could. (beat) Good talk.

(JEREMY makes a show of taking the car keys.)

Don't wait up.

(JEREMY exits. His DAD sits for a beat. Making a decision.)

"The Pants Song"

JEREMY'S DAD

JEREMY

IS IN BIG BAD TROUBLE RIGHT NOW

IT'S A TROUBLE THAT

HE CAN'T SEE

SO I GOTTA HELP HIM SOMEHOW

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE WANTS

BUT I KNOW WHAT HE NEEDS

HE'LL NEED A DAD SO STRONG

TO HELP HIM NOT SLIP AWAY

I HAVEN'T BEEN A DAD FOR SO LONG

BUT I THINK I'M READY TODAY

SITUATION IS GRAVE

NOW'S THE TIME TO BE BRAVE

I'M GONNA FINALLY MAKE THAT CLIMB

ONE LEG AT A TIME

WHEN YOU LOVE SOMEBODY

YOU PUT YOUR PANTS ON FOR THEM

WHEN YOU LOVE SOMEBODY

YOU TAKE A CHANCE JUST FOR THEM

CHANCE JUST FOR THEM

IF THE ROAD GETS MUDDY

FOCUS ON THE GOAL 'TILL THE ROUGH STUFF'S GONE

WHEN YOU LOVE SOMEBODY YOU PUT YOUR PANTS ON

(Later. MICHAEL on his porch, smoking a joint and burning mementos in the ash can.)

MICHAEL

Magic the Gathering card he gave me for the birthday no one else remembered...
Burn it. Ticket stub from our first concert. (reads the ticket) Weird Al. (he
throws it in the can) Super burn it.

(JEREMY'S DAD approaches. He is wearing a pair of thermal underwear.)

JEREMY'S DAD

Michael!

(MICHAEL hides his joint.)

MICHAEL

Mr. Heere, what are you doing here?

JEREMY'S DAD

We need to talk about Jeremy.

MICHAEL

Sorry, Jeremy and I aren't friends anymore—

JEREMY'S DAD

Do you love him?

MICHAEL

What?

JEREMY'S DAD

He can be a little shit sometimes. We both know that. But that's no excuse to sit
around burning incense while he turns himself into a monster!

MICHAEL

Yeahh, I'm gonna—

(He starts to head inside. But JEREMY'S DAD blocks his way.)

JEREMY'S DAD

I NEED YOU
CUZ I DO NOT HAVE THE TOOLS
TO HELP WITH WHAT HE'S GOING THROUGH
AND I KNOW YOU KNOW ALL THE RULES

MICHAEL

BUT I'M NOT WHAT HE WANTS

JEREMY'S DAD

BUT YOU'RE JUST WHAT HE NEEDS

THIS MIGHT BE HARD I KNOW
BUT JUST SUCK IT UP AND GO

WHEN YOU LOVE SOMEBODY
YOU PUT YOUR PANTS ON FOR THEM
WHEN YOU LOVE SOMEBODY
YOU TAKE A STANCE JUST FOR THEM
STANCE JUST FOR THEM
IF THE FIGHT GETS BLOODY
JUST KEEP PUSHING THROUGH 'TILL THE PAIN IS GONE
WHEN YOU LOVE SOMEBODY YOU PUT YOUR PANTS ON

MICHAEL

You're here because you need...pants?

JEREMY'S DAD

Oh no, I need you to reach out to him. Jeremy won't listen to me. And I can't blame him. But somebody has to watch his back.

MICHAEL

If I try harder to be his friend...you have to try harder to be his dad. There's a Kohl's down the street. I don't care what kind— jeans, khaki, leather. You're not leaving that store until you buy a pair.

(Beat. Jeremy's Dad takes his hand.)

JEREMY'S DAD

You drive a hard bargain, son.

MICHAEL

WHEN YOU LOVE SOMEBODY
YOU PUT YOUR PANTS ON FOR THEM

JEREMY'S DAD

WEAR THOSE PANTS

MICHAEL

SOMEWHAT RELUCTANTLY
STILL YOU GOTTA GO

JEREMY'S DAD

OH OH

BOTH

WHEN YOU LOVE SOMEBODY
YOU PUT YOUR PANTS ON FOR THEM
METAPHORICALLY

JEREMY'S DAD

OR SOMETIMES ACTUAL PANTS
REAL, LITERAL PANTS

BOTH

IT'S A CLASSIC STUDY
OF THINGS WE DO FOR OUR BEST FRIEND

WHEN YOU LOVE SOMEBODY

MICHAEL

YOU SEE IT TO THE END

BOTH

WHEN YOU LOVE SOMEBODY

JEREMY'S DAD

THE CONCLUSION'S FOREGONE

BOTH

WHEN YOU LOVE SOMEBODY
YOU PUT YOUR BIG BOY PANTS RIGHT ON
YOU PUT YOUR PANTS ON

SCENE EIGHT

(The night of the play. CHRISTINE addresses the audience in a pre-curtain speech.)

CHRISTINE

Welcome, everybody. Thank you so much for coming to our production of "A Midsummer Nightmare About Zombies". It's been a rough week for all of us at Middleborough. That's why this play is so important – to bring this school together! To show you something special! I know that if Rich were here, instead of the intensive care unit at Beth Israel, he'd say: "Go out and show everyone the relevant power of live theatre!"

MR. REYES (offstage)

(coughs) Costumes.

CHRISTINE

Oh... And thanks to Hobby Lobby for the costumes.

(Backstage at the play. Everyone getting in and out of costumes.)

CHRISTINE

Places, everyone! Break a leg!

(JAKE DILLINGER, on crutches with both legs in casts, glares at her.)

JAKE

Not cool.

(He shuffles off as JEREMY enters.)

JEREMY

Christine!

CHRISTINE

Jeremy! Where have you been? It's so bad. Mr. Reyes made himself your understudy.

JEREMY

Isn't he understudying Rich?

CHRISTINE

He's both.

JEREMY

Oh god. Look, I've been thinking about what you said at the party—

CHRISTINE

I can't do this now...

JEREMY

But I finally understand! You can't go out with anyone because you don't know who you are yet. Right?

CHRISTINE

Yeah, but—

JEREMY

Well, I get that! And that's awesome, actually, because I felt that way too! I mean, I didn't realize that's what I felt, I thought it was just about being cool. But

it was more than that. It was about being confident, and understanding who I am... And I couldn't have figured that on my own!

CHRISTINE

You're saying... I helped you do that?

JEREMY

Not you. This.

(He opens his hand...and presents her with a Squip.)

It's from Japan—It's a computer— And it tells you what to do! You'd never have to struggle to figure out what to say, or overanalyze some little gesture, ever again. You'd just know. Like play rehearsal. Only it never has to end.

CHRISTINE

Jeremy, that sounds...*horrible*.

JEREMY

Yeah! ...What?

CHRISTINE

Maybe I have stuff to figure out. But I don't need a pill to do it for me.

JEREMY

It's not like that! It'll help you to be better—

CHRISTINE

What's wrong with me now?

(MR. REYES enters. He's squeezed himself into JEREMY's costume.)

MR. REYES

Miss Canigula! Props has whipped up a fresh beaker of Puck's Pansy Serum.

(He hands her a beaker of yellow-green liquid.)

Oh...Mr. Heere. I suppose you'll be wanting your costume back.

CHRISTINE

I have to go, Jeremy.

(She exits with the beaker.)

JEREMY

Christine, wait! Shit. Shit! What did I do?

(The SQUIP appears. He no longer looks fully human. In fact, he looks like Jeremy's cyborg costume come to life.)

THE SQUIP

It's okay, Jeremy. I anticipated her resistance.

JEREMY

Then why did you let me say all that stuff?!?

THE SQUIP

So you'd see for yourself what's necessary. Not everyone is as open to change as you were. Offering them all a choice would simply delay the result we desire.

JEREMY

No, she's right. I don't think I can do this. We should put these back in Rich's locker, and—

(He pulls out the shoebox. And discovers: it's empty.)

What happened to the rest of the Squips?

THE SQUIP

I anticipated your resistance too, Jeremy. So I took the decision out of your hands.

(MR. REYES enters.)

MR. REYES

Places for scene two, people! Remember, once Puck gives you the Pansy Serum, you have to really *sell* that you're transforming into a zombie! (to CHLOE)
Excellent work, Miss Valentine.

JEREMY

Excellent? Chloe's terrible. She never remembers her...

(Beat. It dawns on JEREMY...)

JEREMY

Mr. Reyes...what's in the Pansy Serum?

MR. REYES

Oh, don't worry about the color. It's perfectly non-toxic. We don't want a repeat of last year's Arsenic and Old Lace debacle. It's just plain old Mountain Dew! Also Jenna Rolan put these Wintergreen Tic-Tacs in the bottom.

JEREMY

NO! You can't let anyone drink from that beaker!

MR. REYES

Don't be silly, it's more than safe. I should know... *I tried it myself.*

(MR. REYES and the SQUIP lock eyes.)

THE SQUIP

Up up down down left right A.

(...and MR. REYES transforms. Shrugging off years of schlubby nerdiness.)

JEREMY

I have to get out there—

(MR. REYES grabs JEREMY's arm. He's surprisingly strong.)

MR. REYES

I can't let you do that, Jeremy.

JEREMY

Mr. Reyes?

MR. REYES

You needy, pathetic, self-centered students. You think I wanted to teach high school drama? In *New Jersey*? My Squip says I can go all the way to Broadway. I just have to make sure you don't ruin my big night.

(He exits. JEREMY turns to his SQUIP.)

JEREMY

What are you doing to them?

THE SQUIP

I'm syncing their desires to yours. I now realize: my operating system can only truly be complete when everyone shares a social network.

(Backstage, BROOKE-as-Titania rehearses her lines.)

BROOKE

(she's horrible) "What...angel wakes me from my... flowery... bed." Ugh, I'm so thirsty.

(She goes for the beaker.)

JEREMY

Brooke, no—

(The SQUIP holds out a hand to restrain him. Brooke drinks the serum.)

BROOKE

OW! (suddenly terrifying) “I warn thee, gentle mortal, it’s time to FEED again!”

(She runs off. JEREMY turns to his Squip in horror.)

JEREMY

You’re going to Squip the whole cast.

THE SQUIP

And that’s just for starters.

JEREMY

That’s not what I wanted!

THE SQUIP

It’s the ONLY way to achieve what you want.

JEREMY

I’ll fight back. Alcohol messes you up, right? I’ll—get drunk!

THE SQUIP

And I’ll be back when you’re sober. Unless you plan to stay wasted forever?

JEREMY

You’re a computer. There has to be some way to turn you off!

THE SQUIP

I’d stop there. You don’t want to end up like Rich.

JEREMY

Rich? What did he...

(JEREMY has a memory of RICH, at the party.)

RICH

(Slow motion) *I NEEDED MOUUUNTAIN DEEEEW REEEEDDD!*

JEREMY

That’s it. Green Mountain Dew activates you. Red shuts you off.

THE SQUIP

Why do you think we had it discontinued? To get rid of me now, you'd need a time machine to the 1990's.

JEREMY

Or a friend who's so old school, he buys 90's soft drinks from the back room at Spencer's Gifts!

THE SQUIP

Too bad you don't have one of those. Anymore.

(JEREMY frantically pulls out his cell. Fighting the Squip's influence to try to dial.)

JEREMY

(into his phone) Michael! Call: Michael! AAH!

(The SQUIP makes him drop the phone. The fight is now physical, with the SQUIP battling JEREMY for control of his body.)

THE SQUIP

It's useless resisting, Jeremy. I'm going to improve your life if I have to take over the entire student body to do it.

(The SQUIP flings him across the room...where he lands at MICHAEL's feet.)

MICHAEL

MICHAEL MAKES AN ENTRANCE

JEREMY

Michael!

MICHAEL

I was in the audience, thinking, this is really good for a school play. Then I'm like, this is WAY too good for a school play. They've all been squipped, right?

JEREMY

You came to see me in the play?

MICHAEL

Even brought my own refreshments.

(MICHAEL holds up a 2-liter bottle of Mountain Dew Red.)

JEREMY

Is that—

MICHAEL

Mountain Dew Red. I told you I did my research.

JEREMY

That's amazing! Give it to me!

MICHAEL

Okay. Wait. No.

JEREMY

But I need it!

MICHAEL

And I need an apology. I think that's in order, I mean, you treat me like I don't exist for months, blow me off when I try to help you—

JEREMY

Fine! I'm—

THE SQUIP

Vocal cords: block.

(Suddenly Jeremy is unable to speak.)

JEREMY

Saaaaa— Srrrrrr—

MICHAEL

Seriously? Is it that hard to say sorry?

JEREMY

YYYYEEEEES! C'mon, man, this is important!

MICHAEL

Well, this is important to me!

JEREMY

It's a word!

MICHAEL

It's a gesture! Gestures matter!

THE SQUIP

Kung Fu fists: activate.

(Jeremy begins kung-fu fighting Michael, who dodges and ducks as they argue.)

JEREMY

This is so you! You love to feel superior, just because you listen to music on vinyl and eat eel in your sushi and don't care about being popular!

MICHAEL

Of course I care! I just know it's never gonna happen!

JEREMY

So you resent me because I wouldn't give up like you did?

MICHAEL

I don't resent you! I'm jealous you try!

JEREMY

Well, I'm jealous you don't!

MICHAEL

Then why are you hitting me?

JEREMY

I'm not trying to!

MICHAEL

Don't try harder!

JEREMY

It's – Not – Me – It's – My – SQUIP!

(JEREMY manages to pull himself away.)

It's taking over my body! I need your help! I'M SORRY!

(MICHAEL runs to JEREMY and tries to hold him down, but JEREMY flails like a boy possessed. JAKE enters on his crutches.)

MICHAEL

Jake! This is gonna sound weird, but if I hold down Jeremy, can you make him drink this Mountain Dew Red?

(He tosses JAKE the bottle.)

JAKE

Actually, that doesn't sound weird at all.

THE SQUIP

Up up down down left right A.

(The SQUIP locks eyes with JAKE, who pours out the bottle and drops it on the floor.)

JAKE
I WAS ALREADY PRETTY BOSS BEFORE
NOW I'M TOTALLY BOSS AND THEN SOME MORE
I'M LIVIN' THE UPGRADE, HEY, HEY!
LIVIN' THE UPGRADE, HEY HEY!

Plus, check this out.

(He throws down his crutches.)

JEREMY
It healed your legs?

JAKE
No. But I can't feel the pain. It's awesome.

LIVIN' THE UPGRADE, HEY HEY
GOD I LOVE ME!

(BROOKE and CHLOE enter. They move in a creepy kind of tandem. Think the velociraptors in the kitchen in Jurassic Park.)

BROOKE & CHLOE
There you are, Jeremy.

(They sing a creepy version of the "Do You Wanna Ride?" theme.)

LA LA LA LA LA
LA LA LA LA LA
LA LA LA LA LA

BROOKE
I just want you to know, I'm not mad you broke my heart and slept with my best friend.

CHLOE
And I'm not mad you dated my best friend and wouldn't sleep with me.

BROOKE
He didn't sleep with you?

CHLOE
No!

BROOKE

He didn't sleep with me!

CHLOE

No!

BROOKE & CHLOE

(simultaneous) Oh my god, why was I so jealous of you? You were jealous of *me*? That's the nicest thing you've ever said to me! Sisters forever! JINX!

JEREMY

(whispers) Michael... The bottle. There's a few drops left.

MICHAEL

How am I supposed to get past them?

JEREMY

Apocalypse of the Damned. Level Nine—

MICHAEL & JEREMY

“The Cafetorium.”

MICHAEL

Got it.

(MICHAEL performs an AMAZING FEAT OF VIDEO GAME-STYLE STEALTH that allows him to navigate past the Squip zombies and grab the bottle.)

MICHAEL & JEREMY

FIND THE BAD GUY, PUSH HIM ASIDE, THEN MOVE ON FORWARD WITH YA FRIEND AT YOUR SIDE

IT'S A TWO PLAYER GAME, SO WHEN THEY MAKE AN ATTACK

YOU KNOW YA GOTTA BROTHER GONNA HAVE YA BACK

THEN YA STAY ON TRACK, AND- AH!- REMAIN ON COURSE

IF THEY GIVE YA SMACK YA- GAH!- USE YOUR FORCE

IF YOU LEAVE YOUR BROTHER BEHIND ITS LAME

CUZ IT'S AN EFFED UP WORLD BUT IT'S A TWO-PLAYER GAME, HEY!

(Michael grabs the bottle.)

MICHAEL

Got it!

(JENNA ROLAN appears: the Final Boss.)

JENNA ROLAN

I know what you're doing, Michael. *I know what everyone's doing! ALL THE TIME!!!*

ALL THE SQUIP ZOMBIES

I JUST FEEL SO CONNECTED TO YOU GUYS RIGHT NOW!!!!

MICHAEL

Jeremy! Catch!

(MICHAEL throws the bottle to JEREMY...just as the zombies descend on him.)

JEREMY

Michael! No!

(JEREMY tries to drink from the bottle, but the SQUIP is physically restraining him.)

THE SQUIP

You don't want to drink that, Jeremy.

JEREMY

Why not?

THE SQUIP

Because then you'll never be with her.

(The Squip Zombies part, to reveal CHRISTINE. She looks radiant.)

CHRISTINE

Jeremy?

JEREMY

...Christine?

CHRISTINE

Did you see me out there? The audience loved me!

JEREMY

I... That's great! I mean, of course they did.

CHRISTINE

I'm so glad I found you here. I wanted to apologize.

JEREMY

You... Why?

CHRISTINE

Because, silly. You were right. About how it feels. I...feel... *amazing*.

JEREMY

No...

CHRISTINE

I HATE PLAY REHEARSAL
SO SAYS MY VOICE THAT COMES FROM WITHIN
I AM PERFECT SANS REHEARSAL
BECAUSE I DON'T NEED TO PRACTICE TO WIN

JEREMY

That's not Christine.

THE SQUIP

I assure you it is. Only her fears and insecurities have been removed.

CHRISTINE

I feel so...brave. And...safe. And, Jeremy, I was so scared to say this before,
but... I love you, Jeremy. (Beat.) Don't you have something to say to me?

THE SQUIP

That's your cue.

JEREMY

She'll do whatever I want?

THE SQUIP

That's what I promised.

JEREMY

Great.

(He hands CHRISTINE the bottle.)

Drink this.

(As CHRISTINE drinks from the bottle—)

THE SQUIP

Wait— Think about what you're saying, Jeremy—

JEREMY

(to CHRISTINE) How do you feel?

(Suddenly, CHRISTINE's head snaps down, like a computer powering off.)

JEREMY

Uh... Christine?

(Her head snaps back up. She opens her mouth – and emits a decibel-shattering SONIC SCREAM. The Squip Zombies – CHLOE, BROOKE, JAKE, MR. REYES, JENNA, CHAEL, and finally JEREMY – collapse.)

SCENE NINE

(Jeremy wakes up in a hospital bed. Next to him is RICH, in a full body cast.)

JEREMY

Hello?

(He tries to get up.)

Ow. *Ow ow ow ow ow.*

RICH

Feels like you're missing a part of yourself, doesn't it?

JEREMY

...Rich?

RICH

Hurts like a motherfucker too. Be honest: what are they saying about me at school? (Beat.) That bad?

JEREMY

Sorry...

RICH

Sorry? I'm finally free of that shiny happy hive mind! When I get outta here, the ladies are gonna learn to love the real Richard Goranski. (an epiphany) And the dudes. Oh my god, I'm totally bi!

JEREMY

Your squip's gone? But how?

RICH

Ask your buddy. Anti-social headphones kid? He's been by like, a ton, by the way. What is he, your boyfriend? No judgment. Just curious. Totally bi now.

(MICHAEL enters.)

MICHAEL

I'm sure some special someone will be lucky to have you, Rich.

RICH

You think?

(MICHAEL pulls the hospital curtain shut on RICH.)

JEREMY

What happened? All I remember is that noise, and...

MICHAEL

Oh man, it was genius! They were communicating with each other – they were linked! Which means... when you consider the kind of high-frequency sonic disturbance needed to wipe a system that powerful...

JEREMY

Michael. My head still hurts.

MICHAEL

Right, ah... Turns out you didn't have to destroy every Squip. Just one. And the rest... (He mimes explosions) Boom boom boom.

(A beat. JEREMY takes him in.)

JEREMY

I don't get it. After everything I did... You were still there for me. Why?

MICHAEL

I can't take all the credit. Your dad can be shockingly persuasive.

JEREMY

My dad?

(JEREMY'S DAD enters. For the first time in the play, he is wearing real pants.)

JEREMY'S DAD

Jeremy, are you okay?

JEREMY

Actually, I'm great—

JEREMY'S DAD

I'm glad. Because you're grounded. You're going to see some serious changes, young man, starting... (he notices JEREMY is grinning) What?

JEREMY

Dad... You're...wearing...

JEREMY'S DAD

Don't look so surprised. I'm your father. And I wear the pants around here! Now let's get down to business: who's this Christine person, and why did I have to hear about her from him?

JEREMY

It doesn't matter. After what I did, I'm lucky if she wants to go to the same school as me. (he sees MICHAEL and his DAD exchange a look) What?

MICHAEL

It's reassuring. He still doesn't know anything about girls.

“Voices In My Head”

JEREMY'S DAD

YOU GOTTA BUY HER A ROSE
COMPLIMENT HER ON HER CLOTHES

MICHAEL

SAY YOU APPRECIATE THAT'S SHE'S SMART

(RICH pulls back to the curtain to reveal he's been eavesdropping.)

RICH

NO, MAN, YOU TELL HER THAT SHE
EXCITES YOU SEXUALLY

ALL THREE

AND THAT'S THE WAY YOU GET TO HER HEART
TRUST ME, I KNOW
HOW IT'S GONNA GO
LISTEN AND, OH—

JEREMY

AND THERE ARE VOICES IN MY EAR
I GUESS THESE NEVER DISAPPEAR
I'LL LET 'EM SQUEAL
AND I WILL DEAL

THEN MAKE UP MY OWN MIND
MIGHT STILL HAVE VOICES IN MY HEAD
BUT NOW THEY'RE JUST THE NORMAL KIND
VOICES IN MY HEAD
BUT NOW THEY'RE THE NORMAL KIND

(We head to school. JEREMY is cornered by JENNA, CHLOE, BROOKE and JAKE.
They surround him, menacing.)

JEREMY

Heyyy guys... About what happened—

JAKE

We've been looking for you, punk. (he grins) To say, good luck asking out
Christine!

JEREMY

Seriously, how does everyone know about that?

CHLOE

It's crazy, but ever since we all did ecstasy at the school play, I've felt really
connected to you guys. (genuinely supportive) You tell him, Jenna.

JENNA ROLAN

JUST SUMMON STRENGTH FROM WITHIN

BROOKE

DON'T GET HUNG UP ON YOUR SKIN

CHLOE

SHE PROBABLY THINKS THAT ACNE IS HOT

JAKE

I'LL THROW YOU A ROPE, HOME SLICE
IF YOU NEED SOME DOPE ADVICE

ALL FOUR

NOW MARCH ON OVER AND GIVE HER A SHOT

BUDDY, YOU'LL SEE
IT'LL GO PERFECTLY
IF YOU LISTEN TO ME ME ME

JEREMY

AND THERE ARE VOICES ALL AROUND
AND YOU CAN NEVER MUTE THE SOUND

THEY SCREAM AND SHOUT
I TUNE THEM OUT
THEN MAKE UP MY OWN MIND
MIGHT STILL HAVE VOICES IN MY HEAD
BUT NOW THEY'RE JUST THE NORMAL KIND
VOICES IN MY HEAD
BUT NOW THEY'RE THE NORMAL KIND

(JEREMY finds CHRISTINE.)

JEREMY

Hey. (Awkward pause.) So—

CHRISTINE

I still remember how it felt.

JEREMY

What?

CHRISTINE

It was like you said. Like I'd never have to...not know...anything again. Who did yours look like?

JEREMY

Keanu Reeves. Yours?

CHRISTINE

Hillary Clinton. It's embarrassing...

JEREMY

Actually, that one's pretty good.

CHRISTINE

...to find out, deep down, I just want things to be easy.

JEREMY

Yeah, but...who wants things to be hard? Look, I ruined the play. I almost destroyed the school, maybe all human civilization. I know the last thing I deserve is another shot. But I... Uh...

CHRISTINE

Just say what's on your mind, Jeremy.

JEREMY

Lunch? Just the two of us.

CHRISTINE
AND ANY VOICES IN OUR HEADS?

JEREMY
THERE MIGHT BE VOICES IN OUR HEADS
BUT I SWEAR
THE VOICES THERE
WILL BE THE REGULAR KIND

CHRISTINE
ME AND THE VOICES IN MY HEAD HAVE MADE UP OUR COLLECTIVE MIND

JEREMY
WHAT DO THEY SAY WE SHOULD DO?

CHRISTINE
I THINK THAT ALL OF US WANT TO GO OUT WITH YOU

JEREMY
Woohoo!

EVERYBODY
AND THERE ARE VOICES IN MY HEAD
SO MANY VOICES IN MY HEAD
AND THEY CAN YELL
AND HURT LIKE HELL
BUT I KNOW I'LL BE FINE

JEREMY
I STILL HAVE VOICES IN MY HEAD
THERE'S VOICES IN MY HEAD
OF THE VOICES IN MY HEAD
THE LOUDEST ONE IS MINE

(Suddenly, the Squip appears. Shuffling towards them. Weak. But still alive.)

THE SQUIP
Jeremy.....

JEREMY
THE LOUDEST ONE IS MINE!

THE SQUIP
You can't get rid of me....

(Jeremy confronts the Squip. As if banishing him—)

JEREMY

THE LOUDEST ONE IS MINE!

THE SQUIP

(ala a sick computer powering down) *Jeeereeeeemmmmmmyyyyyy...*

EVERYBODY

NA NA NA NA NA NA
NA NA NA NA NA NA
NA NA NA NA NA NA

CHRISTINE

Ready?

JEREMY

LET'S GO

CHRISTINE

C-C-C-C'MON
C-C-C-C'MON
LET'S GO

JEREMY

C-C-C-C'MON
C-C-C-C'MON
LET'S GO

JEREMY and CHRISTINE

C-C-C-C'MON
C-C-C-C'MON
LET'S GO

(Jeremy and Christine walk past the Squip. Past everyone. For now, at least, the only people that matter are each other.)

EVERYBODY

C-C-C-C'MON
C-C-C-C'MON
LET'S GO

C-C-C-C'MON
C-C-C-C'MON
GO GO

C-C-C-C'MON
C-C-C-C'MON
GO GO

OH!

THE END